



RENÉE & THE RABBIT

Beatrix Potter gets
the Hollywood
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AS BIG AS
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MACLEAN'S



JAN.
15th
2007



**CAN BEING THIS SKINNY
HELP YOU LIVE TO 140?**

An intriguing body of science says it can P.16



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**THE WORST
NEIGHBOURHOOD
IN CANADA P.20**

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Radwinski's Ramblings Visit Mackenzie's managing editor Adam Radwinski's new blog www.mckinsey.co/ideas/adr
Weekday Update Columns Scott Paschuk gives his take on the day's news headlines www.mckinsey.co/ideas/paschuk

P.20

Kyle Jeffrey Flott 1986-2006

A paper-clip trader's brother sells his name, a Bollywood babe tries to prove her pioussness, and a penguin-inspired tap dancer is all about the birds.



JEAN-BERTRAND KANDIA ET monopolized and publicized the sale of chisel and trowel officers.

Keeping politics and democracy separate

In his 27 years on the job, Jean Pierre Kinsley redoubled the passion of Canada's chief election officer. Unfortunately, neither his better instincts nor his superior sense of an approaching bureaucratic peril into a public and frequently controversial position. He spent considerable time making his own interests and goals while practicing questionable politics at home. He struck it conspicuously into partisan politics by subverting in this party the other not adhering. Given his resignation has week stirred a major political storm regarding his reasons. But it matters little why he quit. What's important is that the next chief election officer return to the original mission and focus of the job.

It was perhaps inevitable that Kingsley would find himself at odds with the Harper government. When the Prime Minister was the head of the National Citizens Coalition, he was sharply critical of Elected Members Canada and its support for the election of law. In tendering his resignation now, Kingsley has made an honorable exit prior to the next election. But his resignation is certain.

The biggest blorbn on his career has been the National Register of Dialects and Accents on voice participation. Used for the first time during the 2006 federal election, this electronic database replaced the time-consuming process of door-to-door transcription shortly after the vote was dropped. Kingsley argued that it was cheaper and more efficient to hand the task of recording all eligible voters in the country to voice-pair experts and they then called from Canada Post. Canada has

erent Agency, provincial driver's license bureau and other assigned agencies.

While it may seem reasonable and effective to have computers spit out voters' lists, the evidence to date has been disappointing. There has been no appreciable cost savings. In fact, the budget for Elections Canada has been increasing at an alarming rate. Dead people and non-citizens have been registered for the vote, so the agency's embarrassment. Most importantly, voter turnout has declined. Despite an uptick in the last election, it is not the below 60% seen prior to 1993.

Regrettably, it has been Canadians with the most tenuous connection to nothing-first-towns, immigrants, students and the poor—who are most at risk of being financially punished by the companies because they may not be on any lists. Their debt-driven economies may have a greater rate of success in finding and enrolling these potential voters. As one campaigner also served as a kind of town crier announcing to every household that an election was just around the corner. This particular coach has been lost. Instead, voters now get a reminder read in the mail. But if you are not on the list, you don't get a card. Overall, the National Register of Elections "had a debilitating impact on voter turnout," according to a 2007 *Maclean's* review.

Given Kingsley's surprise nomination, Ottawas should take this opportunity to reform Elections Canada by seeking out a more transparent candidate for chief electoral officer. Candidates must be more proactive in their enumeration and attracting less public attention than would be ideal regional ambassadors for anyone interested in the job. ■

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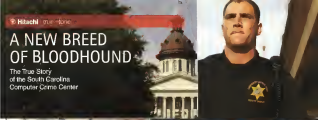
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A dose-response relationship for the risk of cancer was not observed. The authors concluded that the data do not support a causal relationship between exposure to benzene and cancer.

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

'Stroumbouloupoulos says he's not dumbing down the news, but rather explaining it. To whom?'



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

AS A LONG-TIME SUBSCRIBER, I feel compelled to congratulate you on your year-end issue ("Macweekend 2006," Dec. 25). The articles about leading events during the past year were informative, fun, entertaining and they were a source of some stimulating discussion and reminiscing between my colleagues and myself. As a media producer, I find it great.

HOME, SWEET HOME

YOUR ARTICLE "I am appalled at the social and environmental responsibility of Maclean's editors." To suggest that when space is so big due to overnight economic, not to mention dangerous ("Buy if you love Canada," "From the Editors," Dec. 25) "With the planet at its rearing peak of production, the idea that we should continue to encourage work in activities to reverse large distances to get more rich and bankrupt as they can as humans is stupid and environmentally unsustainable, not to mention expensive. Spending of capital, what about those 40-year mortgages you mention? How many people are going to suffer retirement so they can continue to make more pay payments will stay their 60? Please better, Vancouver

IT SEEMS that Maclean's editors are advocating the scrapping of suburbs. The implication is any city dweller from that editorial is that given is bad for business. Lowest, in effect, are a waste of valuable space. So, indeed, let's scrap the suburbs, and build high, city, multi-story condominiums by god, row upon row, mile into the sea. But then, whatever would we do with all that [former] suburban? Turn it into parking and refuse would we? Richard Kneibler, Victoria

NO LAUGHING MATTER

I AM OF THE OPINION that there are few situations in life that cannot be explained if those involved would only lighten up ("It's a good thing you can get it," TV, Dec. 21). Still, I'm having a hard time watching my head around the idea that through later CTV's *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, it is possible, in Zany McLaughlin's opinion, to put "the fun back in fundamentalism." It seems to me that in order to put the fun back in something, it has to have been there in the first place—and clearly, that's not the case with

Islamic fundamentalism. Or is News suggesting that an unscripted murder of a hitler is, in fact, funny, and should be so? Mindy G. Allen, Toronto

MESSAGE SHOCKVERTISING

I WROTE DEAPORTMENT that you had the audacity to compare the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board ads to commercials that are geared toward persuading consumers to buy retail products ("TV's scene from 28—no, it's a car," Media, Dec. 18). At the age of 35, I was left a widow with two young children. My husband and his co-workers



were beating a wall in an elevator shaft on the 25th floor of a luxury condominium building where the safety platform they were standing in collapsed. They played 35 floors. Advertisers use shock ads to plunge into the pocket of the general public. The WSIB ads are designed to remind everyone that they are responsible for workplace safety. With their powerful dramatization, WSIB has taken a bold step to educate the public about how critical workplace safety is to every individual in the workforce. Paul DeMiguel, Newmarket, Ont.

FBI CBC: RATINGS MATTER

ON JONATHAN GATROUSHE's piece about George Stroumbouloupoulos, a few lines stood out: "A failed run at night on television," Media, Dec. 23). Gatroushe says Stroumbouloupoulos is the angry type. Few people are. The aggressive side is evident only to those who feel their

media group is underused, or its status as a success producer of *The Hour* is slipping with a format that doesn't work. Whence says he is not dishing down the news, but explaining it, I have to ask, to whom? This justification is perhaps at the root of why many people feel the show is underperforming. Furthermore, when Norman Levinsky, the creative director of network programming, says that "the message of a message on the CBC isn't just about the ratings, it's about how much education it is," like a being abroad. Ratings are a measure of viewers and audience, and to belittle their significance in broadcasting reveals a dangerous message of dangerous control. It's simply ludicrous to pretend to show how economic problems. Allan Semmes, Toronto

THE BIG HAIR PICTURE

YOUR ARTICLE about people who stop washing their hair ("Kick the habit. Grease is the word," Help, Dec. 18) does a disservice to your readers. I work with clients using a three-step shampoo on a colour treatment system, you realize just how much debris can accumulate in one day, not to mention the hormonal buildup. These conditions can lead to hair loss. The best way to maintain a healthy scalp is daily washing with a good shampoo, pH balanced cleanser. Karen Sharp, Ottawa

TENSIONS IN TURKEY

WHY DO YOU COMMENT the recent French bill outlawing the denial of the Armenian genocide at the hands of the Ottoman Turks during the First World War to be provocative ("Wearing a new holy emblem," World, Dec. 4)? It isn't for three reasons. Firstly, French legislation already has the same law regarding the denial of the Holocaust by the Nazis. Secondly, Raphael Lemkin (who created the word "genocide") and worked toward the adoption of the 1948 UN Genocide Convention) stated that the Armenian genocide and the Holocaust are the defining examples of genocide. Lastly, the Association of Genocide Scholars adopted a resolution in 1999 calling on the Turkish government to stop its negationist about the Armenian genocide, as it is a historical fact that falls under all five criteria of the UN Convention. Thus, the French bill is a natural evolution in the

'The article on people who stop washing their hair does readers a disservice'



LIFE COACHES who claim psychotherapy is all about the past are missing, a reader says

ment. Turkey should also evolve by being humble and honest about its past. Otherwise, it shows just how far it still is from the EU values it pretends to accept. Anne Amherst, Laval, Que.

THERAPY VS. LIFE COACHES

IN THE ARTICLE about the new proliferation of life coaches, coach Wayne Conley is quoted as saying that "therapy is about the past [while] coaching is about the present and the future." ("You can get that 100," Help, Dec. 4). He could not be more wrong. All psychotherapy is really of the same nature. In the present and looks to the future. Dynamic psychotherapy is based upon the well-established idea that one's current dysfunctional beliefs and behaviours arise from unconscious adaptations to stressful early life circumstances. In other words, what was the solution has become the problem. Understanding this connection is not the only component of being in psychotherapy, but it is a vital one. As the philosopher George Santayana put it, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Timothy Basse, MECOM, FRCPC, Calgary

JACKIE PARKER'S AGE

In your lineup of *Person* people who passed away in 2006 ("The End," Dec. 23), you give Jackie Parker's age as 94. This machine has a typo: the CFI, just was 74. Michael Cook, Toronto

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GRAHAM and Oliver (under the mist), Sheila Martin (on red)

RICK MERCER'S BLACK CHRISTMAS

On Christmas morning, political jester Rick Mercer woke up to a snowy present in Afghan tones. He was in a tent in a hostile land operating military base with Jay Hill, the Conservative party whip, John Baird, the president of the Treasury Board, and Edmonton MP Laurie Hewitt. "I never thought I would spend Christmas Eve with these Tories," says the host of *The Mercer Report* on CBC. Mercer's only gift on Christmas Day was the snowing (he sat up of office Hill, who is the MP for Prince George-Peace River, finished for him. Mercer and the Tory MPs, part of a Christmas mission in Afghanistan, were accompanied on the trip by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen. Rick Hillier. Baird brought along Christmas packages for several soldiers on behalf of five Ottawa families. Mercer, who had already been in Afghanistan once and in a honorary colonel, entertained troops in several locations. In the event of an emergency, "I was supposed to stay out of the way," he says. "The politicians give, no one else put in," he suddenly shouts. "speaking. The Prime Minister called the troops and spoke over a loud-speaker twice on the holiday.



While on holiday in Afghanistan, Mercer and the MPs sampled the local cuisine: southern Afghan concoctions—the U.S. presented a set of chaps of making the meal there. Fortunately, no access

LEFT TO RIGHT: MPs Laurie Hewitt and Jay Hill with Rick Mercer



went off during their trip. But when they were near the front-line action at the a passing time, any trips to the washrooms after dark weren't being accompanied by soldiers wearing night-vision goggles. Only once inside the outdoor could the visitors witness their disabilities. The group returned to Canada on a military aircraft and loaded new military equipment. Mercer, the MP, Hillier and Mercer had to fill out customs forms—Mercer says he had nothing to declare, not was he planning on visiting a farm any time soon.

STOMACH AIDE SEES HIS BOSS CATCH FIRE

It happened during a Christmas party for the *Spaced* TV Net, a comedy series, along with Canadian Rick Mercer and KIMBLEY, to raise money for mosquito nets in Africa. The event will help prevent the spread of malaria. The bash was held at the Ottawa club MTL. Stomach's aide looked into some candles



PARTY GAME

Seized, Clooney and Layton and the other Hugo Boss brand caught fire. Were the festive gods speaking? Capital Diary is sure why there was something so hot in the air. More than 10,000 were told that night. A sample of Martin showed up: Sheila Martin, the wife of former PM Paul Martin, and Don Martin, *National Post* columnist and author of *Believe: The Political and Personal Life of Belinda Stronach*. The former Liberal secretary leader Bill Graham amused himself at the festivity by placing one of the hats over the head of CTV's Craig Oliver. Oliver looked so embarrassed Graham was moved to quit. "I'm going to have to marry you," Oliver was comically blushing.

JACK LAYTON GETS STUCK WITH BRITNEY SPEARS

Stephen Harper, Belinda Stronach, Barbara Seizend and George Clooney were the big names at the Jack Layton and Olivia Chow holiday bash at their home in Toronto. As guests opened the house, they were asked to participate in the party game in which a famous person's name tag is placed on a guest's back and he or she has to ask people five yes/no questions to try and guess the name. Chow was given "Jack Layton", Layton's name tag said Britney Spears. No word on whether or not he was wearing underwear. ■

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MITCHEL RAPHAEL, PHOTOS COURTESY OF HUGO BOSS, ANDREW VANDERKAM, CLOUTIER OF ALMA HENGE

Harper's surprise plan might be, well, surprising



PAUL WELLS

Stephen Harper began 2006 recognizing David Emerson as an asset and ended it recognizing Quebec as a nation. He is full of grand gestures, often risky, usually executed without warning. Each time, one of his goals is to destabilize his opponents. Liberals around Stéphane Dion have no doubt that the Prime Minister is preparing another such move against their man. They do not expect to have to wait for it. In what will certainly be a dramatic year in Canadian politics, the first move will be Harper's.

What is the Prime Minister planning? Well, the funny thing about surprises is that they're hard to predict. But Harper is a fan of the golden rule as applied for federal politics: he takes great pleasure in doing unto Liberals what Liberals have done unto Conservatives. So the model for his first serious attack on Dion can probably be found in the recent history of Liberal electoral strategy.

Practically and frantically, that's why I was surprised Harper didn't continue to lose an election within days of Dion's leadership win. Harper is a keen student of Jean Chrétien's electoral success and Paul Martin's failure. He has often said Chrétien was smart to call an early election soon after Gilles Duceppe became Bloc Québécois leader in 1995, and again soon after Stockwell Day became Canadian Alliance leader in 2000. Harper has even said that Paul Martin's biggest strategic mistake was to give him, Harper, two months to prepare for an election after becoming leader of the rising new Conservative party in 2004.

So I was surprised Harper to let the play for an election so far. It would be also a very one-liner spin. We'll be in the middle of the campaign right now. A second winter campaign in a year? We might be misled, but we'll get over it. The Liberals, exhausted and barely on speaking terms among the

assorted leadership factions, wouldn't. Since it didn't happen, it must be because Harper was convinced I doubt his promise to hold elections on fixed dates prevented much of an obstacle; he could get around it if he wanted. Events in Quebec—federal politics is very often about Quebec—will as usual Jean Chrétien has been so unpopular against, more adept at constant Martin style falling than the Harper style grand gesture, that he has no guarantee of re-election. He told interviewers before Christmas he wants to wait until a federal budget before he starts his personal campaign. He wants to gauge Harper's ability to be "fiscally virtuous," a gag—strictly for sound, if you ask me, but whatever—between federal surpluses and provincial budget requirements.

You can be pretty sure the two men are colluding. Chrétien is waiting to see a federal budget because Harper has let him to understand the payoff will be worth it. The delivery of a six-billion-dollar from Ottawa, with attached rent pump and circumstance, may even work, giving new electoral momentum to both the Chrétien Liberals and the Harper Conservatives. But that's no sure thing, and waiting until a February budget to find out we'd give Dion too



The PM's golden rule? Do unto Liberals as Liberals have done unto Conservatives.

much time to find his feet. So Harper will need another trick to jam between his new adversary's spokes.

In opposition, Harper was paranoid about hitting in any substantive way about the idea the Conservatives would implement as government. He told his MPs and strategists that if they were good allies, or even merely popular, the Liberals would need and implement them first. Now he can do that unto them. As it happens, his biggest weakness and Dion's only strength line up nicely.

The silliness of Harper's claim the act was a public relations decision is a lower choice to allow that he can give fear all Canadians who care about the environment and not only for Conservative partisans. He'll probably have to redo that policy anyway, which is why many of my colleagues are predicting that Rona Ambrose, the environment min-

ister, will be shuffled out. But fear can be less important than policy. And environmental policy was at the centre of Dion's campaign for the Liberal leadership. His plans for greenhouse gases and environmental action and national parks and much, much more are still on his website, and only pages from

Some Liberals around Dion expect Harper to simply implement Dion's environmental plan. All of it. Like, within the next few weeks.

Again, there'll be precedent. When Stock Day became Canadian Alliance leader and made his own big priority, Chrétien had

Martin deliver a mini-budget so full of tax cuts that the *National Post's* banner headline the next day read, "Liberals Deliver Alliance Budget." It was the beginning of Day's undoing.

You protest: but Harper doesn't believe in fancy environmental plans. That's okay. He believes in winning. He can't afford Dion's plan? He can't afford to lose either.

Surprises are still hard to predict. Harper may have something else up his sleeve. We've already seen he has well-stocked shelves. But his his against Dion will be on something like this scale. It will be pre-emptive. And it will look off a set fight between well-matched opponents that will bring more excitement to our politics this year than we have seen in a decade. Of that you can be sure. Probably. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wells, visit his blog at www.macleans.ca/pwells/



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So, the corporation isn't a psycho; it's a wuss



ANDREW POTTER

If you were to draw up a list of enemies of the public good, you would have a tough time finding an enemy known as loathed by the left as the publicly traded corporation. Curiously, it's turning out that someone else hates the corporation, too: the right. Indeed, as far as great many pro-market, free-market types are concerned, the corporation has become a tool of the anti-capitalist left. The left wing hates the corporation as well known, due to an small amount to the former success of the 1930s Film (and book) *The Corporation*. After pointing out, rightly, that corporations are responsible for all manner of downstream social ills (the domination of the news and soap stars, widespread environmental degradation, liberal use of neo-scholarship), *The Corporation* finds their source in the profit motive.

What makes the publicly traded corporation particularly odious is that it is legally obliged to maximize private returns to shareholders, so the exclusion and even denigration of the public good. As the filmmakers point out, we have a word to describe a person who is devoted to the single-minded pursuit of his private interest: a psychopath.

Even the most concerned capitalist would have to admit that the success of psychoanalyzing the corporation and discovering that it is a psychopath was a truly inspired theoretical device. And like Naomi Klein's book *No Logo*, which came out as the anti-globalization movement was fading in lustre, *The Corporation* appeared just when the business press favoured a steady stream of account of corporate malfeasance. Surely this case had been made. If the corporation isn't a psychopath, then why are so many executives being locked up in hospitals?

The only problem with this theory is that the evidence didn't fit. The problem with the corporation was supposed to be the greed,

less pursuit of shareholder value, the inevitable every corporate scandal of the first half of this decade, it was the shareholders, not the public, who got screwed. The cause of "Enronitis" was not the profit motive; it was the greed motive. That is, management spent so much time losing its own pocket that it forgot its fiduciary duty to the owners of the company, namely, the shareholders.

As a result, concerned observers on the political right drew the correct opposite conclusion from the rash of scandals. The problem with the publicly traded corporation, they felt, is not that it is too profit oriented, but that it is too profit minded enough. That is, managers are often only mildly and indirectly dedicated to the concerns of shareholders. And shareholders are dispersed, uninformed, unorganized, and collectively incapable of holding management's feet to the fire.

For the right, the trouble with the publicly traded corporation goes beyond the usual worries over high levels of executive compen-



Shell, Nike and McDonald's all bend over backwards trying to satisfy social activists

sation or stock-price manipulation. The inability of shareholders to act collectively has made the corporation vulnerable to being hijacked by left wing social and political scoundrels. Consider the drug companies being lobbied to provide drugs at below cost or free, British Petroleum's reinventing itself as Beyond Petroleum, or even more corporations that have been driven into the global warming issue.

By exploiting the disorganization of shareholders, this argument goes, activists have manipulated the world of corporate governance, its ongoing management into using the resources of the corporation to advance its left-wing agenda.

For the right, this is a humbling story, another instance of what the left did in the latter half of the 20th century. First, it took over the great philanthropic organizations, which it

took over the universities. Now, having failed to advance its economic and social agenda through these channels, it's trying to turn from the corporation into a political actor under the guise of ideals it calls "Corporate Social Responsibility" or "Societally Responsible Investing."

In the United States, there are now a number of groups dedicated to reorienting free-market values into the corporate world. One of these is a mutual fund called the Free Enterprise Action Fund, which makes investment with free market advocacy. On behalf of its investors, the fund seeks to either the spare management, encouraging it to resist pressure from activists and keep focused on the task of operating the business in the interests of shareholders.

Last spring, the fund criticized the management of Morgan Chase for devoting considerable company resources to lobbying the government for limits on greenhouse gas emissions while ignoring the more pressing

issue of insolvent litigation, a problem that was costing the company billions of dollars. As the fund pointed out in a letter to the Morgan management, litigation reform is a problem of much more immediate concern to the company's shareholders than global warming.

There is an interesting parallel here, between the fate of the corporation and that of the left's previous hero more, the brand. The chaos behind *No Logo* was

that the brand gave corporations the power to control consumers and bully governments. Yet most of the book is devoted to stories proving the exact opposite, as companies like Shell, Nike and McDonald's all bend over backwards trying to satisfy the demands of committed social activists. Brands, as it turns out, are very fragile things indeed.

The story of the corporation is not a stellar one. The need to satisfy shareholders was supposed to be the source of the company's much money, but it can turn out to be its Achilles heel. As the left has discovered, a disorganized group of shareholders can bend management to its will, whatever that may be. In the end, it turns out that the corporation isn't a psychopath, it's a wuss. ■

ON THE WEB: For more, Andrew Potter's web page blog at www.macleans.ca/andrewpotter

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The Iraqi government has launched an inquiry to discover who leaked the unofficial footage of Saddam Hussein's pre-dawn hanging on Dec. 30 in Baghdad and who faulted the former president in his last moments. Corroborated crimes against humanity, Saddam's death drew mixed reaction from around the world. He was lauded by his loyalists but his henchmen of Tikrit

[illegible]

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|--|---|
| <p>1 An Iraq helicopter lands with soldiers blooded while protesters carry portraits of Saddam Hussein in Ali Ghar 125 km north of Baghdad. Over 1,000 protesters marched through the streets, expressing their anger over the execution.</p> <p>2 Muslims in New Delhi carry a coffin of U.S. President George W. Bush to protest Saddam's death.</p> <p>3 A Palestinian boy pours a toy gun at a memorial for Saddam in the town of Baghdad. Hundreds of Palestinians flooded into the West Bank to mourn the death.</p> | <p>4 A Palestinian artist living in the West Bank city of Ramallah depicts a photo of Saddam taken while he was in custody.</p> <p>5 In Tikrit, a town known a poster of Saddam during a protest against his death.</p> <p>6 Tourists look at a sand sculpture of Saddam on a beach in Port, India.</p> <p>7 In Britain, people read the news of the execution.</p> <p>8 In Wolvick, India, an artist draws a portrait of Saddam on a wall.</p> |
|--|---|

been a lot of cases where one partner goes on CR and the other partner does not and it causes them a lot of strife because the one partner is always trying to get the other partner to not smoke, or the CR partner becomes really worried about the other person's health.

Quibbly likes to *pretend*, and nobody likes the pretense around aging, but I've rarely heard such *humble* descriptions of *aging* and the aging process as I have from people who are on CR.

As if you didn't have a struggle of the degenerative process of biological aging, you probably wouldn't have the motivation to be on CR.

And in fact when most people go on CR, although it's not really an anti-aging effect, you get so much more vitality over the short term that a lot of people suddenly look and act and feel younger and they go, "Oh my God, I've been living this other way for all this time!" Aging is a real degenerative disease that affects every organ, every tissue, every system. You can just that out of your head if you like, but it's just an objective biological fact on which we have a hell of a lot of data.

Q You must have become accustomed to people thinking that you're over-optimistic in assuming that something that has been accomplished with laboratory animals can actually play out in our world.

As you're absolutely right, but it's well beyond dispute where it's just a real study because they've done this in years, they've done this in thousands, they've done this in species, they've done this in dogs, they've done it—all through the evidence is still preliminary—in cattle, they've done it in monkeys.

It's always been acknowledged by a lot of people going that dying is part of living. As Will, dying isn't part of living, dying is just dying.

Qu: And you are going to die at some point, right?

As you, I am. But if I told you that you were genetically fated to have cancer, and you had access to a treatment that would delay that cancer by five years, to years, you wouldn't just say, "Well, I'm going to die of cancer eventually anyway so I may as well just suck it up." You would want to know years of healthy life as you could get. To say that I'm eventually going to die is not the point. The point is I want to have a long and healthy life.

Qu: How old are you?
As: Thirty-six.
Qu: And how do you know that you're not

aging as quickly as you pretend?

As: You can't really say it unless you've got a controlled experiment where you've got a town of yourself and the one that is eating a normal diet.

But we all have very low cholesterol, we have high good cholesterol, low blood glucose, good response to insulin, no hormone insulin, low levels of systemic inflammation, and so forth. It doesn't directly tell you that there's no aging because there's no direct way to measure that, unfortunately.

Qu: Is CR living naked in cinders by some people?
As: I think that's almost a logical impossibility. If you are doing something that's counterproductive to your life and health, the way you're not doing CR—you're either misunderstanding yourself or you're in some way not guarding your health.

You know, it's a violent person's diet, and the more severely you restrict calories the more vigilance you have to be about what you're doing. The most common thing you'll see is people who get enthusiastic about CR, drastically cut back their calories, lose huge amounts of weight, and somehow perfectly well that when you do that as an adult organism it doesn't work. But I wouldn't describe that as someone CR, I'd describe that as stupid pseudo-CR.

Qu: CR was to take off and become a sort of mass popular diet, we're flailing with near starvation levels of calorie intake. As: We may or may not be, right? I mean, you can do CR 10 per cent.

Qu: Okay. But it's not more dangerous than your average diet because of that, isn't it?

As: Well, when you go on low-carb diets they always have a disclaimer saying you need to be working with your doctor, and that applies in food with CR. You have to be much more careful about the inherent risk of being on a very low-calorie diet. If you're on CR, you're on CR for poor long-term health, whereas most people who are on regular diets just want to...

Qu: Look good for the wedding next month.
As: Exactly. And because they're only going to be on that diet very temporarily they have



'When one partner goes on CR and the other partner does not, it can cause a lot of strife'

a lot less to lose if they don't do it properly.

Qu: The most shocking thing, I think, about CR is the body image of some of the young women, yourself included. It's immoral to see people starve themselves. Did it take you a while to get used to that?

As: I lost weight slowly, it's one of the guiding principles of CR. I actually like my body more now, and I suspect that's partially a function of maturity. Even though I have less muscle mass, because I have even less fat than I did before, my muscles have a very, very ripped look.

Having said all that, if you ask me what my ideal phenotype would be, I would be 50 lbs heavier of body mass, but I'm happy enough with my body and I'm certainly not willing to compromise years—maybe decades—of healthy life to being a beefier person. ■

To read more about the science of Calorie Restriction, see page 40.

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How did the province where medicare was born end up with a city this frightening?

BY JONATHAN GATHERHOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
SIMON HAYTER

The Belfast Palace-style burgundy murals dot the living-room ceiling, as known locally as "victory roads." Syringe-cleaning calculations of a successful fix, where addicts shoot what's left of the mixture of blood and drugs skyward. There are faint signs of habitation in the rest of the apartment—a dirty T-shirt on the floor of the bedroom closet, a single washer and a half-finished McDonald's soft drink in the fridge. But the blacked-up spoon on the kitchen counter and needles stashed behind the couch chapel say its lingering destiny about as the bathroom floor's primary use. City officials are here looking for an excuse to close the shooting gallery down. The health inspector checks the bathroom—filthy but functional. Apart from a broken window, the city's main finds the place to find structural order. It's the firefighter who finds the potentially fatal flaw—respond here were behind the broken stove. The stove switched and the placard goes up: "Unit for Home Occupation."

By the standards of Regina's inner-city, the apartment isn't even that bad. The first one he managed: Housing Standards Enforcement Officers—a joint effort by local authorities and federal guards in a crack down on slum lords—ever wanted was noticed with rats. The tenant died when he killed his shirt to show the boss the rodents infested as they crawled over his mattress at night. Brenda Morris, the president of the North Central Community Association, is often the first through the door. She narrows off overhead lights, people using the oven to heat their bodies in the dead of winter. The man with the mousetrap on his nose to catch the vermin that kept snuffing his dinner from the frying pan. Multiple dwellings with no plumbing because the occupants have ripped out the copper pipes and sold them for drug money. "We're living in a Third World country here," she says.

The enforcement team has begged, bluffed and toyed its way into 300 down-on-their-



"WE'RE LIVING IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRY HERE," SAYS A COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

CANADA'S WORST NEIGHBOURHOOD

properties once got married in 1994. Close to a quarter of them have been pulled for disrepair, safety problems or just general ineffectiveness, and the landlords ordered to make repairs. Social workers are dispatched to find the tenants new services and resources, offer help with debts, and, when necessary, take legal action to evict tenants. Not everyone welcomes the aid or the scrutiny. On this day, a new landlord is shadowing the team as they make their way through the streets in his white pickup as it makes its way through the neighbourhood. As the officials pull up at the next stop, the man across the road bushes his head inside and shuts the door.

The projection is of the most visible effects

and victims there, 3,600 requests a month. The health authority, which last year distributed 1.5 million needles, estimates there are more IV drug users per capita than in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Gels as young as 11 or 12 regularly work the street. Regina's high incidence of birth and stress, sex chills, street robberies and violent assault has placed the city at the top of Canada's urban crime rankings for more of the past 10 years. An overall 15 per cent drop in criminal code offences proved just enough to land the city second place in 2005, right behind Saskatoon—13,496 incidents per 100,000 population versus 12,136.

A FIRE INSPECTOR (LEFT) checks out an abandoned home in the North Central area, police deal with one of the highest crime rates in Canada, and drug use is epidemic (bottom).

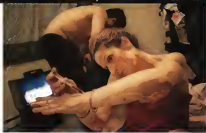


And while Regina's crime problems may be citywide, there's no question where its greatest lies. North Central—151 blacks, 151 back alleys, sandwiched between the CN and the CP rail tracks—accounts for a quarter of all police calls. There are no crime housing projects here, just 1990s-era "straw" workers' on high-rise, two-level concrete. Some are well-maintained, others barely qualify as shacks. They all sell for less than most new cars. Six per cent of North Central's 10,000 residents move every year.

The median household income is just over \$15,000—half the city average. A typical child will attend all four of the city's high schools in elementary school in the course of a single academic year.

It didn't get that way overnight. Morris Eagle, the executive director of the Welfare Rights Centre, a local advocacy group, says the neighbourhood was working class when he bought his home in 1979. Now it's drug, power and drug money. Whichever through the streets in his battered SUV, he points out the crack houses, the gang members engaging in street corners, the individuals hanging out and stand empty because the kind of responsible parents who quickly to rent their want nothing to do with North Central. "Where I live, I wouldn't walk on the street after 10 o'clock at night if you gave me a whole week's wages," says Eagle. "People are afraid."

Outside the shooting-gallery apartment, Cpl. Ray Van Dusen, a community liaison officer with the Regina Police, gestures toward a white house with the street number painted on red wooden boards. The woman who lived there was recently evicted because she was running her two daughters—all under the age of 16—on prescription drugs. A couple



to help this tenth general centre, population just under 200,000, deal with some seriously big-city problems. Inner-city Regina affects two to four neighbourhoods, North Central and the area east of the downtown known as the Core—is among the poorest spots in urban Canada. Thirty per cent of residents depend on government assistance. Local food banks

of doing away there's a little parking. It used to have a parking garage but the city had to remove it—too many mothers were parking their kids there while they bought fuses or turned tricks in the wee hours of the morning, standing on the cracked sidewalk, with a bottle strong in the big clear that arch high overhead, it's easy to believe that this is the worst neighborhood in Canada.

Maybe it's a relic of his past as an inner-city boxer—1980s Canadian amateur boxing World champion with a lifetime record of 111-93—but Pat Placco, the mayor of Regina, is a glass-half-full kind of guy. Under his aegis, the city has become a capital of positive thinking. He writes as "I love Regina" shuttles practically everywhere he goes. When he launched his civic pride campaign in 2002, the pop rally, complete with pipe band and RCMP colour guard, drew an apologetic response. "There's a simple solution to Regina's problems and it's all a matter of attitude," he told the crowd.

There are signs of a turnaround. Strolling through the once ghastly downtown business district, Placco showcases the refurbished office towers, new condos and the use of a soon-to-be luxury hotel. Buoyed by the oil and gas boom that has taken Saskatchewan from "have-not" to "have" status, Regina had the strongest big-city economic growth in the country in 2006, 3.8

per cent. It ranked fifth in 2005. Overall unemployment is also around five per cent (North Central's rate is expected to be five to five-and-a-half per cent higher). Home building permits were up about 10 per cent last year. Only Calgary has a lower office space vacancy rate.

It's hard to find the sunny side of Regina's crime issue, however. Each summer, when Statistics Canada releases its annual ranking, the city's reputation takes a seasonal beating. "I don't think our crime problem is bigger than anyone else's in Canada," says Placco. "Most people feel safe in this community but do they feel safe in North Central? No." Regina is grappling with many of the same challenges other Western cities are, says the mayor. Poverty grew throughout the 1990s as higher levels of government cut transfers and off-loaded services. And the city's poorest demographic—Aboriginal Canadians—continues to swirl down to an exodus from the province's even more remote reserves and higher unemployment rates. (Forty-two per cent of North-Central residents are of First Nations ancestry according to census figures.) Placco says it's not just the money game, but the social realities, involving a more skilled and player. Ottawa says the province doesn't pay enough attention to Regina's problems and



EXPERTS SAY REGINA'S INNER CITY HAS MORE IV DRUG USERS PER CAPITA THAN VANCOUVER'S DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

almost too many strings in their money, he says. "Government needs to be there with us—not controlling, but listening, from us." And despite Regina's recent good fortune, the longer-term trends are not just encouraging. Like the rest of the province, the city's overall population is growing as young people emigrate in search of economic opportunities. (The Federation of Canadian Municipalities estimates that the number of 25- to 34-year-olds in Regina dropped by almost 20 per cent between 1991 and 2001.) In sharp contrast, a graph of the city's Aboriginal population by age looks like a Christmas tree: widest at the base, especially the group between 5 and 14. And Regina's teen birth rate is among the highest in the nation.

A recent study of Saskatchewan's low-income neighbourhoods, published in the *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, found that city's poorest residents were 16 times more likely to have attempted suicide, had 11 times the rate of diabetes, four times the mental health problems and almost twice the rate of heart disease. A similar project last year seen correlations in Regina. The idea of linking health outcomes in North Central and the Core, so many have seemed to anyone and the media seemed asking. But it's a safe bet that



the results will be just as bad, if not worse. Bruce Gibart, a community health nurse who has spent the past decade working with IV drug users in North Central, says things have gone even further downhill over the past four years as neighbourhood addictions turned from prescription drugs to crack and

injectable cocaine. Gab's finding buzz has gotten shooting up 15 or 20 times a day. The track marks alone, leading to blood or bone infections. The pain is constant. So in the past year, he's seen even fewer people at the past four years as neighbourhood addictions turned from prescription drugs to crack and

Gibart wound for a picture essay. Every one of her clients who he photographed is now dead. "These health issues really show up in their last moments," she says.

Drug habits are often supported through prostitution. Gibart visits her clients in their makeshift bedrooms—"Purse" and "House"—

Peter Gilson, executive director of Regina's Anti-Debt Ministry, an advocacy group, says there is a growing income gap between poor and rich, a divide that is even sharper in the case of Aboriginals. Efforts by the province to move people from the welfare rolls to "transition" work training programs whose benefits are lower and slower to get and salaries are fixed, have deepened the hole many people find themselves in. According to a recent University of Regina report, the

A STATISTICS CANADA study found that conditions for Aboriginals in most urban centers are improving—except in Regina.

average low-income family in the city now takes \$6,900

a year before the poverty line. Gilson finds it all too bleak. "The Aboriginal population here is growing so fast that if these kind of levels of inequality continue, it's going to end up affecting everyone." To his mind, solving the problem will require people to tackle some unpleasant realities. "There's no inherent contradiction in Saskatchewan. On the one hand, there's the tradition of social justice—the home of medicine, the co-op movement, the country's first bill of rights," says Gilson. "On the other hand, there's also a history of racism and poor housing, inequality and exclusion."

Barry Denovon, who studies poverty and drug use at the University of Regina's Social Policy Research Unit, calls the city "the most segregated community in Canada." He notes in by the rail lines and busy roads,

where the furniture has been piled against the walls, and the floors are littered with makeup bags, used condoms, and the trashed doilies used to wrap the drugs. Syringes, needles and other sexually transmitted diseases are endemic. "We're discussing an increase of HIV positive people not protected and diagnosed until they have full-blown AIDS," she says.

Gibart says the often wordless how the rest of the city can just gaze what goes on downtown. "It shocks me in a city like this of Regina." She says her goodbyes and heads out to deliver an emergency bag of groceries—Kraft Dinner and soup from her own kitchen cupboard—to a 39-year-old client. Two years ago, he lost all of his toes to frostbite after getting high and going for a barefoot stroll in the middle of winter.

But poverty—extreme poverty—is becoming the city's defining face, she says. "Regina is the only place I've ever heard of where they send the food out of people's homes during bank and energy."

The white Dodge takes off at the moment the police officer flicks on the light. Scoping on the postcard, a young diver watches and out of traffic along a busy



throughflow and then makes a hard right into a Burger King parking lot. For a moment, it seems like he's bound in, as the signal car trails behind, tires squealing across so loud as the siren as the signal car hits the Dodge 600s as it cruises over the curb and back onto the roadway. The car picks up speed and blazes through red light, narrowly missing the cross-traffic. The chase is over.

Like many of their counterparts, police in Regina have strict rules about high-speed pursuits. The force won't end a car's public safety for a stolen 1994 Dodge Spirit, or any other vehicle. The officers know that all they have to do to get away a crime fast, or arrest it, is to wait the police off. In this case, all that's left to do is follow the trail of leaked oil in hopes of recovering the car. Officers find it ditched a few minutes later near the Saskatchewan football stadiums, in the basement North Central. No one got a good look at the driver, or his young passengers, but the officers figure they're probably near their all before, and soon will again. Leaving against his squad car, Sgt. Denis Peder, a 38-year veteran of the Regina Police, reflects on the changes in his hometown. "When I started out, it felt like when you reached out you could connect with maybe one in 100 people and make a difference in their lives. Today it's more like one in 1,000." The whole of society has changed, he says. "There's less respect. And if people don't respect themselves, they can't respect other people."

According to Canada's Criminal Braod-Range Services, Saskatchewan has the highest per capita concentration of youth gangs in the country—20 active groups with approximately 1,500 members. Aboriginal gangs like the Native Syndicate, Blood Alert, or recently formed NKK (Native Nihilist Killers) control or cause much of the most violent crime in Regina, says RCMP Sgt. Sgt. Bob Dixon, the former director of the CBS's Saskatchewan office. "It will resolve around the drug trade. People have to feed a habit, pay a debt." Prospective members must cut, commit 30 days or months to establish their blood ties. And interestingly, the gangs are threatening and intimidating people in the community who would report their activities to police.

The province's jails are a major recurring ground, by some estimates, as many as 25 per cent of inmates as young men are members of Aboriginal gangs. The present age in youth courts is arguably even higher. (The release of the Saskatchewan Indian Nations estimates that out of 10 youths arrested in the province's urban centers are native, as are 75 to 90 per cent of those in youth custody.) The gangs' allure—money, excitement and a ready-made family—is



hard for authorities to control.

"We're up against a pretty hardcore, well-organized gang with its own structure," says Dixon.

Col. Johnston, Regina's chief of police, besides its reputation for its city is sliding toward an American-style problem with gangs, violence and drugs. "I think people who live in Regina know very recently how this city is actually," he grins to himself on our making excuse for the high crime numbers, but the chief's face after explanation. People in Regina still report the kind of petty crime—bicycle thefts, vandalism, etc.—that city police forces long ago stopped investigating. And some of the force's own crime-fighting activities, like aggression that performs knee strikes and ball-club smacks a car on top of officers, help to drive the charge coast up. What Johnston doesn't acknowledge is that his 100 officers would work harder than their counterparts in other parts of the country, dealing with more crimes per capita than almost anywhere else in Canada. "It's about intensity," says Johnston. "In Regina, things are very intense and have been for a very long time."



Press the outside, dirt seems like an understatement. In 2006, Regina had a higher murder rate than any other city in the province. The previous year there were also eight, giving the city the second highest per capita murder rate—1.97 per 100,000 people—among major Canadian cities (Edmonton was the worst with a rate of 4.28). Consider the fact that 15 of those killings occurred in North Central—the Core—combined population 15,000—and the problem looks even starker. Nonetheless, Aboriginals make up three per cent of Canada's population, but account for 17 per cent of homicide victims, and

SOME CRIMINALS IN REGINA STEAL THE FOOD OUT OF PEOPLE'S FREEZERS DURING BREAK AND ENTERS



A TWO-YEAR-OLD (top) plays in the yard of her family's North Central home, a voluntary auto housing the birth of a child's first child, worshippers pray for change at Four Winds Gospel Fellowship (left)

33 per cent of cases occurred at that time. At least 11 of Regina's 16 murder victims since the beginning of 2005 were native. The identity of the killer isn't as clear, since eight of the 16 murders remain unsolved (as of late last year, the Crown was reviewing evidence with an eye to laying charges on some of those cases).

Statistically, Regina Police have had one of the lowest number "break and enter" rates in the country, solving 99.5 per cent of all break and enters since 1996 and 2001. No one can explain why the rate has suddenly dipped below 100 per cent. None of the crimes has been officially classified as "gang related," although it's not hard to find people who will tell you differently (Regina Police follow

them, judge and other weapons before stuffing them into the trunk of a car. After driving a short distance, they stopped in a back alley to finish him off. According to witnesses, it was Quentin Lloyd Johnson, 26, who pulled out a rifle and pronounced, "That's what happens when you f--- with the Native Syndicate," before shooting Friday in the back and stomach. (Disarmament was never considered if the drugs in the car.) Since the victim was still alive when his body was dumped on Macgregor's First Nation, near Fort Qu'Appelle, the case didn't count among the 10 violent deaths that saw Regina in the 2004 "murder capital" designation for over two weeks after Friday's killing, the same North Central house he was abducted

from was set ablaze. Jennie Westwood, 20, died in the same, her death—classified as a murder—remains unsolved.

The police have had some success in the core zone. Auto theft (3,277 incidents and attempts in 2005) is down almost 50 per cent since 2001. Chief Johnston credits a strategy that focuses on the young, as well as on the police. For most vehicle thefts and attempts to divert them before they graduate to more serious crimes. Residential break and enters have dropped by half over the past decade, and burglaries 30% as down by 35 per cent (3,504 in 2005). But vehicle crime has increased substantially since the mid 1990s (there were 3,285 recorded incidents in 2005), and the number of robberies has jumped—150 in the first six months of 2006, versus 185 during the same period in 2005.

Increased enforcement, says the chief, can only carry the city so far. A real solution to Regina's crime wave will require a national effort to address the underlying socioeconomic—poverty, unemployment and exclusion. "Our city has an Aboriginal population of about 10 per cent, perhaps 20,000 people," says Johnston, who notes that almost half of those live in the Regina area. "The largest First Nation in Canada right now, the Blood Reserve in south-west Alberta, has about 8,000 people." Ottawa has jurisdiction over reserves, but is no longer responsible for Aboriginals who leave them. And people regularly turn into the gap between the programs and services offered by the first and the province.

A 2005 Statistics Canada study found that conditions for Aboriginals living in most of Canada's urban centers had actually improved over the past two decades. One glaring exception, however, was Regina, where the gap in school attainment between native and non-native students widened, and the Aboriginal employment rate dropped. Gary Long, chief of the Federal Office of Statistics's First Nations Division, doesn't criticize words about the plight of natives—in the city and on the reserves—in the province. "Our conditions are probably the most deplorable in the country," he says. "And nobody in government is listening to us or taking us seriously." Saskatchewan First Nations average five children

per household, and 60 per cent of those households are single parent, says Lonsdale. Indeed, mortality is four times higher than the rest of Canada. Unemployment rates as high as 30 per cent, and extreme household income around \$14,000—lower than the norm.

Last fall, the PSN took out newspaper ads decrying the condition of the province's natives in "Third World." The living standards of Saskatchewan First Nations would rank 87th in the United Nations' Human Development Index, they say, behind the Philippines and Jordan, just ahead of Sarawak, Canada ranked sixth in the 2006 global race. Tied of government inaction. Aboriginal leaders are threatening to file national and international human rights complaints about the conditions. "Turning a blind eye isn't acceptable anymore," says Lonsdale.

In North Central, Brenda Mercer says there is a willingness to make things better. "The community wants to be involved in the solutions. They want to do it themselves." People here had enough of the poverty and pain. Mercer, who was adopted by a white couple and grew up off reserve, speaks freely

of the family she left behind. Many, including one brother, now on IV drug addiction, end up on the streets of her neighbourhood. "But under all the problems there are glimmers of hope," she says. "People want change. The problem is that change doesn't come fast enough." And however well intentioned the programs to shut down drug houses and cut down on thefts are, it's obvious that digging Rogers' inner city out of its hole is going to take a much longer time.

On this windy Friday night, things have been relatively quiet in North Central—minus 25, plus wind chill has a way of keeping people off the streets. It's past after 3:30 in an when police dispatch reports are armed and busy in progress at the 7-Eleven, one of the few stores in the neighbourhood, and the only one bold enough to stay open all night. Squad cars flood the zone, fanning out through the back alleys, looking for the suspects. Officer O'Callie once—easily identified by a tattoo on his face—looks a block away from the ship. They put him down, headshot and search him on a housing concern stop, before hauling him away. A noise and air sways

HAYWARD: TRACCO is a shiny half full kind of guy. Under his beard, the city has become a capital of positive thinking



David Green, governor of the state of British Columbia, says he will make the province a model of positive thinking



JACK'S BACK IN THE BOX

The NDP leader is hemmed in by a united right and a crowded left

BY JOHN GEHRKE • From the way he talks it, you'd think Stephen Harper had carefully cultivated his relationship with the NDP's Jack Layton. In a year-end interview with the *Resident* magazine, the Prime Minister hints that Layton was the opposition leader he sought to work with to keep his Conservative majority intact in 2007. "You probably met Mr. Layton more regularly than the others," he said. "I anticipate we will be talking some more and I can't predict where those talks will go." But Layton cracks up when asked about the PM's comments. "It means mean," he gets out between giggles, "that he's not meeting very often with the other leaders." Apart from dinner encounters in Parliament or HILL's public comments, Layton says he talks with Harper but has been limited to a consultation before the Tories outlined their agenda in last spring's Throne Speech, and a barely arranged sit-down in the fall over the Clean Air Act.

And Harper didn't exactly ask out Layton's expert on that environmental bill "He had no interest in our topic," Layton told *Maclean's*. "That is missed up in the House of Commons, therefore a non-confirmation motion, and say, 'Well you mean?' It's being publicly for a that didn't proper quite the image of influence Layton's reputation to long ago. During Paul Martin's Liberal minority in 2005, Layton made his support in the House for a major budget overhaul, and then withdrew it to trigger his own resignation. Still, Harper agreed to set up a special committee to review the bill, and Layton holds out hope that a whole new wave of legislation could be drafted. "Even if we can't agree on everything," he says, "we can find those things where we can agree and move on."

Being able to boast of winning progress on climate change is the sort of policy goal Layton badly needs in 2007. The election that

May 15 election year on a provincial position. He no longer holds the balance of power in the minority House, and support for the NDP has fallen on the few seats in recent polls, down from 17 per cent in last January's election. Jockeying for position on the political left is becoming, particularly for the anxious or even increasingly worried about the environment. Suburban Tories, the new Liberal leader, is a former environment minister who appeals to many potential NDP voters. In fact, back when Owen looked unlikely to win the leadership, then Layton called him "a man of principle and conviction." Comparing the current picture, however, the Green party is threatening to make a breakthrough under

It was hard to compare for anyone but you with Harper setting into power and the Liberal leadership. Harper, then, bigger than any other leader, the NDP's then leader, the Christian right, the Canadian right, divided, since Harper held the new Conservative party, the splits are all on the left. Can a small left of center party make a viable? If it was talking about three days about seeing the left, greenism will surely amount of Harper was another election. In fact, Layton doesn't deny that left-leaning parties need to be able to combine forces in Parliament. He just disputes the notion of a coalition as the way to go about it.

His long-term solution



LAYTON WILL find it difficult to jockey for position on the left, with Dan a champion of the environment, and the Green candidate new leader Elizabeth May making noise

Elizabeth May, its combative new leader. The fact that Layton finds himself scrambling for the NDP's next leader after taking over the federal party's next question about an interim term. Under the last lame leadership of Audrey McLaughlin and Anne McLoughlin in the 1990s, the party floundered with ineptness. When Layton took over in early 2004—bringing deal making and media skills honed in Toronto city politics—the outlook brightened, and in the 2004 election, the party won 15 per cent of the popular vote, no higher in 16 years. In 2006, Layton lifted that vote share to 17.5 per cent, enough to return 18 MPs. But without quite enough seats to serve or sink the Tory minority on their own, New Democrats frequently failed to be the backbone. "They seem to have slid from the program they made over the past two elections," says Ipsos-Reid pollster Denis Baker, "back to where they were under Alex McEwen."

proper federal representation, a deep reform of the electoral system to guarantee smaller parties a share of seats closer to their share of the popular vote. Under PK, he says, left-leaning MPs of all stripes would naturally band together, know-say, to hold sway in the House when their priorities aligned. "That would mitigate the Conservative focus to the 30 per cent plus-or-minus that they enjoy at the best of times," he says. Don't expect Tories to see that possibility—making any movement in that direction highly unlikely under Harper. Still, Layton plans to try to force the center to look into the agenda. "We're again ramping up our campaign for proportional representation," he said, vowing to highlight PK when the NDP gets one of its subsequent chances to put a visible motion before the House in February.

Layton also plans to make the banks a prime target of NDP or. Charging a customer \$1.50 for an ordinary withdrawal should be

outlined, Layton says. "That's illegal in Britain and it should be illegal here." He adds that "unethical" credit card interest rates should be controlled. Another source on bank policy is a recent report by "The Bank of Canada," "like the banks." And the theme might help several voters of the historic NDP found definition around these issues—its weakened aspect of the party's identity as it was when the conservative arrived creating government deficits, keeping taxes down and accepting free trade in 1989.

But promoting PK and banking breaks hardly look like the solid financial success of the NDP's 2006. When it comes to issues that matter to a wide swath of voters, change might look like a more natural policy building block for Layton, who has long championed environmental causes. Breaker argues, though, that the NDP doesn't stand much chance of making it if it goes to party on global warming. The environmentalists have been Harper to make more progress now measures as early as next month.

But what's to stop Layton and Keesee from dissenting from their share of Canada for positions that would, after all, require support from their MPs to make headway? "On the environment," Breaker says, "it's too easy to say, 'No, no!'"

Once his house is open on which Layton does not believe in Afghanistan. It's far with drawing from combat, somehow engaging the Taliban in ceasefire talks and trying to turn the war into a huge international effort. "When he first adopted the stance early last year, political opponents and pundits felt him hard—a reaction he seems up to "you're not serious," they don't support the troops, they're going home." But polls show a majority of Canadians share his ambivalence about the mission. If now claims credit for forcing Conservatives and Liberals to seriously consider this viewpoint. "While those parties are jockeying for position," he says, "I can play a pretty important role in reminding people what's important, and getting it on the floor for legitimate and open debate."

It sounds like the Canadian case for an NDP niche in national consciousness—for more traditional jobs for support (then Layton's) home, in a speech to an NDP convention only last September, that he had begun his campaign "to ask the people of Canada to hire me as their next prime minister." Facing a united right and crowded left in 2007, his real aim might have to be to diversify from enough to survive. ■





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Joanne Kozak
and Cheryl
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'Unreasonable, unjust and wrong'

North America's property tax problem is getting rapidly worse

BY COLIN CAMPBELL A group of residents on my Winnipeg Way, a pleasant street tucked away in Toronto's west end, are waging a quiet war against the government of Ontario. In his home of almost 35 years, David MacAlpine, a 76-year-old with a shock of ruffled white hair, dips through some of the group's ammunition—years of evidence explaining why the government's property tax system is unstable, arbitrary and downright broken. As a retired statistician, he's fluent in the number-crunching language of the tax assessor (and his carefully plotted graphs illustrate the wild fluctuations in actual selling prices in his neighbourhood versus the assessed values), but in the end, he settles on a plain-spoken description of what's ailing "71's a stupid, unfair system."

His description, however blunt, follows a rapidly repeating consensus, not only in Canada but across North America, that property taxes, which are used to maintain houses rather than a person's income or ability to pay, are fundamentally regressive and unfair. A 2009 Statistics Canada study, for example, found that poorer homeowners had a tax burden four to five times higher than richer ones in big Canadian cities. Surging property taxes have only been exacerbated by a nearly decade-long real estate market lull. And what's more, assessments are becoming

increasingly out of sync with the value of the property. But nowhere is the property tax reform movement more organized than in Ontario, where a damning provincial ombudsman's report last year calling the assessment system "unreasonable, unjust, oppressive and wrong" led to a two-year freeze on assessments—more that was widely viewed as a political dodge to get out of any increase until after the next election. One of the central figures in the Ontario property tax movement is Bob Toop, the head of the Coalition for Affordable Tax Reform, a group that now has close to



A SURGING real estate market has led to crushing tax increases for many homeowners.

SOME HAVE SEEN THEIR TAXES TRIPLE SINCE 1996. IT'S TOO MUCH TO PLAN FOR, OR BUDGET FOR.

one million members. A 73-year-old retired chemical accountant, Toop has unwittingly become an influential figure: as a politician, he's having a hard time ignoring Toop. Of course, his is a horror story of his own, and like the MacAlpines, it's an increasingly common one. His critics on his left—their charge: property—a modest place in Ontario's Perry Sound district that's been in the family for 30 years, he says. His 2009 assessment jumped 106 per cent and taxes on the property went from about \$5,000 to \$5,000 in one year, he says. "It could become a burden, but the last thing I want to do is overthink about selling it." The answer to Ontario's problems, he says, is to cap assess-

ment increases of five per cent a year. It's a modest proposal—others say the system should be scrapped altogether—and has been getting support from provincial politicians. But mandating that support isn't as simple as it seems. One of the curious questions about property taxes is why such a potentially straightforward target has so many become so entrenched and resistant to change. The answer lies in part in the division of powers between levels of government in Canada. Property taxes are a city's main source of revenue, relied on these days for everything from education to infrastructure and social services. Cash strapped provinces have been loath to hand over any of their taxation powers to mostly municipal governments. The result is a significant gap between what a city is expected to pay for, and the tools it can use to raise revenue. Although politicians at every level are willing to concede that a problem ex-

Who gets the downed trees?

Stanley Park managers have some tough decisions to make

BY JULIA MACDONELL In the past, when a tree has fallen inside Vancouver's 405-hectare city forest known as Stanley Park, it either has been left on the ground to rot or cut down and mulched at once. But what happens when an evergreen is 1,000 years old as

well as a single wilderness area was the case on the night of Dec. 14? Joyce Courtney, Vancouver Park Board's communications manager, describes the damage as looking like a deer cut. "It is heartbreaking, the majesty of the forest is on the ground—that's significant," says Dwight Bochen, director of Professional Practice and Forest Stewardship at B.C. With thousands of trees down, the forest is a "real danger," says Courtney. Leaving the entire tree could be an option.

Western cedar, as well as second-growth hemlock and Douglas fir, are the predominant conifers, and Courtney. The hemlock and fir are replanted "from a long time ago," she explains. The area was logged at one point for fir millwork, but a storm when these two were the most desirable of the three species. "Trees have changed, however, and it's now the Western red cedar that's most sought after. There's no one big, big tree in there," says a forester he says who doesn't want his name used. "There are some 100-ft. trees. With the Western red cedar, they make a grade as D or D+, depending on length and diameter [such] are probably worth around \$10,000."



A FOREST LOG layer says some of the fallen trees could be worth as much as \$10,000 each.

Nations are concerned that some of the most valuable trees have been spotted on an old traditional cultural territory. Boreal grounds might have been unmarked. "There's no one big, big tree in there," says a forester he says who doesn't want his name used. "There are some 100-ft. trees. With the Western red cedar, they make a grade as D or D+, depending on length and diameter [such] are probably worth around \$10,000."

The first of the trees in "the question of the week," says Courtney, is "the question of the week," says Courtney. The hemlock and fir are replanted "from a long time ago," she explains. The area was logged at one point for fir millwork, but a storm when these two were the most desirable of the three species. "Trees have changed, however, and it's now the Western red cedar that's most sought after. There's no one big, big tree in there," says a forester he says who doesn't want his name used. "There are some 100-ft. trees. With the Western red cedar, they make a grade as D or D+, depending on length and diameter [such] are probably worth around \$10,000."

"Obviously First Nations are interested in some of the cedar," says Courtney. "We've had people wanting to build the new Canada Pavilion at the 2010 Olympics from Stanley Park wood. We've had people say we should build a house here on the park. Some people say we should cut it up in chunks and sell it for reforestation, kind of like Mount St. Helens when they sold soil in little bags. And some say it should go to the highest bidder and let the lumber companies go crazy and give us lots of money so we can put it back into Stanley Park." "There are cultural groups," adds Robinson, "saying we should sell the wood for special ceremonial masks for 2010. First Nations would like to help," says Courtney. "The park is a wilderness area. They had all the resources blown down and they didn't know what to do. Our company was a disaster plan for the maintenance of cedar. Western red cedar is a highly prized wood. It really only grows on the West Coast," he says. "The natural could potentially be worth very little. Park officials really didn't have a great sense that there was a tremendous amount of value in the trees that were there." So, if the logs aren't worth much, neither is offering to help out of the goodness of its heart? "Oh, there's no profit in this for us," says Courtney. "We don't have to do this."

"Well, it's interesting," says Robinson. "I've heard that perspective but part of me wonders, 'Well, what did I hear from them?' Is that potentially a possible part of the strategy to devalue the value of the timber trying to devalue the value of the timber?" "We're a lot of people," says Robinson. "There are groups saying, 'Why are you missing all this money?' The value of the timber will more than make up for replanting and clean up costs," says Robinson. To make matters worse, he adds, one of the park commissioners went on the radio to raise funds and said, "Give a tree for Christmas." "I was well intentioned, but I think we should have thought it through more carefully," says Robinson. "Last report, we've raised close to \$100,000 in cash. How well we need it all that?"



A FOREST LOG layer says some of the fallen trees could be worth as much as \$10,000 each.

troops love those letters from schools. "I was in a tent with two guys in their early 30s who were going over stacks of letters and class photos and separating them into piles. I was a little taken aback that these young guys, in the middle of a war zone, would be so moved by a letter from Grade 4 classes and I realized the deciding factor for the thousands of jobs was which teacher was better?"—Nick Mercer on a Christmas visit with the troops in Afghanistan



TROOPS LOVE THOSE LETTERS FROM SCHOOLS

"I was in a tent with two guys in their early 30s who were going over stacks of letters and class photos and separating them into piles. I was a little taken aback that these young guys, in the middle of a war zone, would be so moved by a letter from Grade 4 classes and I realized the deciding factor for the thousands of jobs was which teacher was better?"—Nick Mercer on a Christmas visit with the troops in Afghanistan

in September, when his muse of a conflict ravaged, this latest operation focuses on taking advantage of the Taliban's weakness over the winter months, shored up with much-needed humanitarian and rebuilding efforts. "This provides us a window of opportunity," says Guzmán. He would like to see local officials arrest these two people to form an anti-terror police force. Afghanistan could take over security duties at the village level, he argues, leaving up NATO forces for other objectives.

According to the elders, though, more men in Durand's fight with the Taliban. Any local police force would need to recruit the same fighters, a prospect Guzmán admits is inevitable, but also scorpable. All it would take are the right incentives. "Most of the fighters," he says, "are like soccer hooligans. They're fighting for money and not ideology." Having villagers work to paid security for the Afghan government would deplete the pool of local fighters available to the Taliban.

NATO, meanwhile, would be able to focus on rebuilding efforts, and targeting the Taliban's most militant ideologies rather than the front-line fighters, commanders like the one in Paktia and Abdul Salam in Qandahar, whose aims are nothing less than the complete dominance of the Taliban in Afghanistan. Popular actions aimed at the leadership have become the primary tactic adopted by NATO. "We select targeting of the leadership," Guzmán explains, "we limit the extent of collateral damage. That's one of the individuals who are the greatest threat to stability in Afghanistan. By targeting them, we do minimize the Taliban and at the same time damage the life of civilian life."

The success of the tactic remains to be seen. With much of the leadership now slipping into Pakistan, it will be difficult for NATO to do any lasting damage to the Taliban command structure. "The border is a concern to us," Guzmán says, adding, in a veiled message to Pakistani authorities, "any sovereign state should ensure that its border is secure."

The border line, of course, is that there will not be a conflict deal. "The officials are not viewed as traitors to the following of Islam in Pakistan, in fact it's a play in a game for the Taliban fighters at a time when their presence is depleted. But the fact remains that the Taliban can still pull back and react over the winter, resulting in opportunities both and outside attacks rather than direct confrontations. Still, as the conflict and tensions rise on the war zone," Guzmán says, "this is the most difficult fight we've ever faced." Says Salameh from his hideout in Qandahar: "More difficult than the Russian fight and the civil war we cannot do without the right weapons." Can NATO take advantage of this weakness? Spring may bring the answer to that question. ■



TOUGH TO BE A WINNER

Protests, murders, drug cartels—and Calderón's term is just beginning

BY ISRAEL VINCIGUERRA • Felipe Calderón may seem like the most unpopular president in Mexican history. In December, opposition legislators stepped out in the face of Mexico's Congress, loudly expressing their anger, hurling insults and in some cases hitting and shoving their political rivals—in an effort to prevent the country's new president from leaving, according to the state's national office. An hour before Calderón's inauguration, right-wing National Action Party (PAN) supporters were sworn in as presidents, his left-wing opponents hurled the death to Guzmán. On the streets of Mexico City, Calderón's chief rival Andrés Manuel López Obrador, a popular leftist and former mayor of Mexico City who has alleged that the July presidential election was rigged, called tens of thousands of his supporters, declared himself "the legitimate president" of Mexico, and set up a shadow government promising to restore voters' power in the future. The presidential inauguration ended with violence.

MEXICO'S new president may not be staying long

in Oaxaca state, in southern Mexico. Some 4,000 federal riot police had been camped out in the state capital to quell violent protests that left several dozen dead since May. Protesters were demanding the resignation of the local governor, whom they accuse of electoral fraud, corruption and of ignoring the poor. But while the upheaval in Oaxaca has died down in recent days, Calderón's difficulties are only just beginning.

There is the fact that fully one-third of the electorate believe his election (he won with a 54-40 vote margin, less than one percentage point of the vote) was rigged, even though the country's highest electoral court declared him the winner in September. Such deep divisions and his own victory will surely make difficulties for Calderón, 44, who holds a degree in law, a master's degree in economics, and a master's in public administration from Harvard University, make a country where nearly half of the population of 126 million live below the poverty line, and where nearly 400,000 economic migrants leave the country every year searching for better opportunities in the U.S. He also inherits a tense situation, where the country seems to be held hostage by powerful drug cartels, which provoked 1,000 deaths last year as violence escalated between rival gangs.

Calderón has also inherited many of the problems faced by his predecessor, Vicente Fox. There is massive corruption and mismanagement of funds, the Mexican state of corruption, and private monopolies have too much sway over Mexico's political and economic life, according to a recent World Bank study. The state-controlled electricity monopoly charges some of the highest rates in Latin America, and the telecommunications sector controlled by Carlos Slim, the third richest man in the world, controls 94 percent of land lines and 80 percent of all cellular service in Mexico. Broadband is slow and TV Azteca, one of the 34 percent of the country's television stations after Congress approved an extremely controversial overhaul of broadcasting laws, has been hit by a combined market share of 99 percent of the Mexican television trade. According to the World Bank study, the monopolies' influence on national politics is rapidly eroding Mexico's faith in its institutions, which many people believe have been

POVERTY AND violent protests are some of Calderón's immediate problems

set up only to protect the country's richest and most powerful interests. The monopolies also hamper economic growth, says the World Bank study, making it nearly impossible to lower the country's unemployment rate, the country's key economic indicator, which is "crucial" for making living standards, creating employment and competing globally.

But just how will Calderón engage in breaking up the monopolies, given that so many of them lack his campaign? How will he stem poverty, and end the reign of terror of the powerful drug cartels—problems he promises to also address but has barely addressed during his campaign? How will he govern amid such social opposition, situations that many analysts worry will simply not conducive to future stability in NAFTA's south American partner? "It is not an overstatement of the complexity of the political situation we are facing through, nor of the difficulties," said Calderón, a devout Catholic who looks the part of a politician, opponent López Obrador, but is widely seen as a political pragmatist.

He's taking on the part of minister of energy in Vicente Fox's cabinet for eight months, Calderón was head of oil companies, a development bank. He also served two terms in Congress, and has been politically active since his early 20s, when he was the leader of the PAN's youth wing. Now he is calling for unity in the face of Mexico's many problems. "I am convinced that we today should start in to our commitments and focus that part a new stage whose only aim would be to place the interests of our nation above all other concerns," he said.

It may not be politically correct. Calderón seems quite serious about getting tough on Mexico's problems, although he has also made it clear he will not play up with the kind of civil disobedience pursued by López Obrador to destabilize his government. "I will always be willing for dialogue," said Calderón in his radio inaugural address, "but will not use the dialogue before starting work." To this end, he appointed Javier Preciado Rentería Aguilar to the key post of secretary of the interior. The former governor of Yucatán state, in the western part of the country, earned the



HIS OPPONENTS ON THE LEFT SAY THERE WILL BE 'NO ROOM FOR DIALOGUE' WITH THE PRESIDENT

condemnation of Human Rights Watch in 2006 for violently quelling an anti-globalization protest, in which police were accused of physically abusing some of the demonstrators. One of Rentería Aguilar's first tasks will be overhauling the country's police forces to fight the drug cartels.

Another challenge, Aguilar says, the former deputy managing director of the Inter-American Development Bank and Calderón's chief economic adviser during the presidential campaign, was recently appointed to head the finance ministry. The appointment sends

a strong signal to the international community that Mexico will engage in tough fiscal policy to maintain low inflation and cut government spending. While the move may have calmed the fears of international investors, it probably also scared away from Calderón's left-wing opponents in Mexico. "The're no room for dialogue," said José Agustín Ortiz Spaldoni, a close adviser to López Obrador, referring to Calderón's recent cabinet appointments. "He has surrounded himself with a shadow conservative who will not bridge from the same two liberal policies that have made Mexico poor."

But the man who inspired the grassroots and the rest of his opponents in order just to take the oath of office almost seems ready for a good fight. ■



SCOTLAND: A BRIGHANT LEARNS TO SHARE
After a recent merger of segments into a single Royal Regiment of Scotland, troops have been faced with a serious shortage of MAs. Among more than 3,000 soldiers there are only 120 of the ceremonial garrisons. Officers have promised what a Ministry of Defence spokesman calls a "planned deployment of MAs by January 2010." Meanwhile, soldiers will have to cope through a dwindling soldier stock which must share with 15 others.

BOOTLEGGERS OF THE INTERNET

The U.S. war on online gaming has driven the industry underground

BY JASON KERRY • The offices of Las Vegas from Home, an Internet poker company in Vancouver, aren't quite like its name. No bright lights or casino bells to cheer on the losses. Just a dingy red carpet, like a used lottery line and a security guard. Used recently, the company opened its ActionPoker.com, a website that lets gamblers go toe-to-toe with other players for real hard cash, without ever going to the trouble of putting on pants. The company was on track for revenues of \$10 million this year when, in October, the U.S. government cracked down on online betting, and all that came crashing down. The company promptly sold its ActionPoker subsidiary to an outfit in Norway. For Jason Kerpel, the company's general CEO, it's a bitter come-down. "The industry has been punched in the gut," says Kerpel, a former blackjack dealer out from the Air Jordan Collection. "It's been a crushing blow for publicly traded companies. But for others, it's been great."

When Congress passed the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act, the outcome was swift and brutal. In Canada, where dozens of companies had built extensive infrastructures to service the booming market, the sector fell flat on its face. In fact, there can be no "red hot" and "sweaty" the industry has

significant employer and source of revenue for investors has crumbled and disappeared—to the benefit of those willing to operate illegal poker rooms and outside of U.S. law.

In recent years, the Internet gambling sector has exploded in size, especially in the States. Fueled by the popularity of Texas hold'em and internet poker tournaments, an estimated 18 million Americans regularly play

active, turn-of-the-century playboy who made billions off his online poker company. Borgata.com, based in Costa Rica, obtained access to the public markets, with several firms listing on the London Stock Exchange. Alternative investment Market—raising hundreds of millions of dollars.

But the U.S. government wasn't happy. Politicians noted against the evils of online gambling, even as Las Vegas rolled in dough. It became clear the first move was the lack of regulation and, perhaps more importantly, the millions in tax revenues lost to online casino operators based outside the country. Jay Leno, a former representative from Iowa, tackled the anti-online gaming legislation onto a massive homeland security bill that sailed through Congress in late September. President George W. Bush signed off on the bill two weeks later.

From the moment the new law came to

fall Internet gambling transactions? The law doesn't make any. The U.S. Department of Justice argues the Wire Act makes all forms of gambling illegal, even though the 100-year-old law was written when the Web was barely a speck in some remote place. At one time, a high-level court case ruled otherwise. As a result, there's a gaping hole for those willing to play beyond the government's reach.

The judging began almost immediately after the U.S. crackdown came into effect. While their stock prices tanked, some companies unloaded businesses aimed at American customers for ridiculously low prices. At least two publicly traded companies, Sportsbook and Leisure & Gaming, sold their U.S. operations for pennies, arguing it was cheaper than shutting down. "You always hear about the great train robbery—we'll, this is it because states are changing hands for it that were worth hundreds of millions of



LAS VEGAS used to approve online gaming. Now casino operators want it on the action.

PROHIBITION JUST 'ENCOURAGES THE UNDERGROUND, NEFARIOUS ELEMENT'

delirious days earlier," says DTP's Kerpel, whose ActionPoker is the first victim. "Enormous fortunes are being made. There's a junior version in the works."

One company has followed a similar path. Shortly after the new law, the Toronto-based online gaming firm Escapes Software, which operates the popular Ultimate Bet gaming site, sold out to an anonymous Midwestern outfit called Blat Out. But if U.S. authorities thought they'd shut out operations down, they were wrong. Ultimate Bet, which still has offices near Toronto, claims new accounts have skyrocketed to per cent since October. "Members on the internet daily," the company said in a release, "and show no signs of slowing down."

And neither does the crackdown. In recent months, U.S. authorities handcuffed David Carruthers, the CEO of BetOnSports and Peter Duka, chairman of Sportsbook, when they set foot in New York. Carruthers is still behind bars. Then, in November, the RCMP questioned employees at the Vancouver marketing office of Absolute Poker, a company registered in Costa Rica, at the request of the U.S. Department of Justice. "A decision was made by all the principals to either resign or move to Costa Rica," says Gus Perreault, Absolute's former vice president of operations. "I decided I wanted to stay where I am." The company continues to accept bets from U.S. players, however, and has been in business proving the value of the crackdown, according to Poker Bet Scout, which tracks industry statistics.

Perhaps the best place to glimpse the rebound of online gambling in the U.S. is the Kahlo reserve south of Montreal. Roughly

300 sites are hosted by Montreal Internet Technologies, which claims to be outside the reach of North American law enforcement because it is located on Montreal Island. In the weeks following the new U.S. law, the site was up and running, but only temporarily, according to Chuck Bryant, a member of the board of supervisors for MIT. After a 20 per cent drop in traffic from U.S. computers, things went back to normal in late December. "People thought it was the doomsday bell for the industry and they reacted without assessing the situation," he says, adding MIT is planning to set up operations in Singapore and the Isle of Man to serve European and Asian gamblers. "It's hard for companies to invest public and corporate and encourage the online spread, without a license."

Already there are signs the law may have to be rethought. Some 11 countries and jurisdictions currently offer safe havens for Internet gaming, reducing the U.S. regulations virtually unenforceable. "There are billions and billions of transactions each day," says Michael Lipton, a Toronto lawyer who specializes in gaming law. "I don't know how in the world they're going to make sure payments aren't so an offshore gaming site. It creates a bureaucratic nightmare."

Even the online industry's biggest muck, Las Vegas casinos, have suddenly woken up

to the goals of cash flowing online and want a piece of the action. For a decade, the American Gaming Association, which represents brick and mortar casinos, opposed online gambling. The AGA changed its tune in 2004. Now it wants Congress to survey a consensus to look for ways to become, regulate and tax online gaming. "The pay who goes home to be with a computer. That's not a bad business customer," says Frank Feltenberg, president of the AGA. "Having said that, if online gaming were legal, casinos like Harrah's and MGM are two that would clearly engage in business gaming."

Winnipeg's Churchill's said, "America always does the right thing, after they try every thing else first." Churchill was talking about the Second World War, but it was also the case with Prohibition. And the same pattern seems to be playing out again with those who peddle virtual casinos. The global U.S. authorities against the industry, the more steps through their fingers. Just last month, PlaySide Holdings, the Norwegian company that recently bought ActionPoker, publicly declared its new strategy as the U.S. The Action Poker Network to soon begin accepting deposits from around the world, the company said. To celebrate, it offered winners of a poker tournament a trip to the real deal—a week at the Bellagio in Vegas. ■



BASKETBALLER's wife Carlye Ayer has twice a finding down into a billion-dollar empire.

ABOUT 1,500 GAMBLING WEBSITES DID US\$12-BILLION IN BUSINESS IN 2005

accomplished. Mysterious new companies have sprung up offshore and taken over popular sites. Others have disappeared into the shadows, but appear to remain in business. Just three months after many had written off the industry, there are again American gamblers as well as their computers, playing bets as far away as ever before. "Prohibition didn't stop anybody from drinking," says Norman Linder, a former RCMP commissioner and, until recently, director of an online gambling company based in Toronto. "The law isn't going to deter those who like to gamble." And so, an industry that was on its way to becoming a

online pilot, and bet on sporting events. There are now anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000 gambling sites, handling an estimated \$12 billion in transactions yearly. It's a golden era, and site operators have struck it rich. The most famous is Calvin Ayer, a basketballer's

light, there has been confusion about exactly what it means. The law doesn't make it illegal to gamble online. Instead, it bans U.S. financial institutions and other payment processors from handling "unlawful Internet gambling" transactions. What's an unlaw-

A RECIPE FOR DISASTER, OR THE SKINNY ON LIVING LONG?

Disciples say Calorie Restriction helps to postpone the inevitable

BY DANIELO BIANVALEHERA • Gerard Staal is almost certainly the only shock-rock guitarist comfortable discussing his body's "biochemistry," and the cause: fighting properties of cruciferous vegetables like broccoli and cauliflower. In fact, his muscle breakdown is the 12-year-old Israeli, 6'6", confident, who shares the stage with kids like Aerosmith and bass strumming mother, in the front band for the temperate, metal band *Steel Only*. He describes his eating style as "caloric restriction" (a good variation of the band's best new sound is the *Steel* standard, *Still New*). "Because the physical demands of this outrageous profession, *Steel* diets, taking a healthier but unproven approach to maintain and lose weight called Calorie Restriction, or CR. This is actually popular diet calls for up to a 30 per cent cut in the widely accepted normal daily intake of 1,800 calories for women and 2,000 calories for men (depending on age and level of activity). Whether it actually works is anybody's guess."

In the beginning, *Steel* approached CR the way he did his music: he went hard-core, consuming only about 1,500 calories a day. The as-of-yet mainstream fame soon dropped from about 180 lbs to 160 lbs then, while age 45, which he says has his performance because of diet also lowered his testosterone levels. "It was a little too young for *Steel*," says, "and I didn't like it." Since then, he has topped his daily intake to about 2,000 calories—well below how much he used to eat, and the 1,000 or 1,500 calories a day count less than those Westerners already intake. *Steel* has now spent two years following *CR* guidelines and eating foods selected for their supposed healing qualities, such as blueberries for the brain, and raw garlic for the liver before bedtime to clean out the gut. "Intense health care," he says. Supplemented with a bit of weightlifting, *Steel*'s energy seems bound less now than he tips the scales at just 164 lbs. He has the self-described build of a whippet.



THE INCREASINGLY POPULAR CR DIET CALLS FOR UP TO A 30-PER-CENT CUT IN THE NORMAL DAILY INTAKE OF 1,800 CALORIES FOR WOMEN AND 2,000 FOR MEN

Steel belongs to a, well, growing body of dieters controlled by the rising interest in studies going back 70 years that strongly suggest a chronic reduction in daily calorie consumption can dramatically extend age-related chronic diseases and increase longevity—as long as strict attention is paid to ensuring adequate consumption of essential nutrients, vitamins and minerals. CR is said to reduce the harmful impact of the body's so-called oxidative stress, in which highly reactive molecules damage cells and DNA.

As with most diets, CR has its followers of ecological physics, perhaps none more so than Aubrey de Grey, a University of Cambridge geneticist. As a guru of nutrition and long life, de Grey has been known to say outrageous things like, "I think the first person to live to 1,000 might be *Gerard*." Helping spread the word is Michael Rhee (see interview with *Steel* on page 16), a prolific writer and researcher for de Grey. Together, they're CR's dynamic duo, popping up frequently online, in magazines and on television to make their bold pronouncements on how increased longevity is well within all our grasp—if only we'd put down the double cheeseburgers and pick up a protein-rich fermented fungus called Quorn.

Admittedly, raising science is so much a part of Calorie Restriction's attraction as is the hype and extreme news subculture. Research out of California, for instance, has shown that, for the most part, it simply, deliberately made mistakes in weight gain linked to how cells respond to insulin and nutrient metabolism can extend life by six months—in rodents, anyway. The genetic alteration fixes the women's cells into growing nutrients occurring through its system, and instead of focusing on metabolism, the cells divert their energy to basic cell maintenance. The cells live longer, and so does the *mouse*.

There are many other studies to draw on. In laboratory settings, where it's easy to control caged animals, caloric restriction of up to 45 per cent has been shown to extend the lives of *rodent* species as well, and aging mice, mice, fish, flies and yeast. And work on pri-

mate looks promising. Ongoing research on rhesus monkeys at the University of Wisconsin is demonstrating that animals fed a low-cal diet, when compared to primates given normal amounts of food, not only have lower blood pressure, but also lower and healthier levels of insulin, glucose and fat. The data on whether the rhesus monkeys actually live longer, however, isn't yet in.

Amazingly, studies in humans have started to take off, says Eric Ravussin, a professor of human physiology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. In 1991, the National Institutes of Health awarded Ravussin and his fellow researchers US\$1.4 million over seven years to study nutrition and aging in humans. For good reason. "All the animal data show that caloric restriction extends lifespan—average lifespan, as well as maximum lifespan," Ravussin says.

But as carefully vetted as Ravussin is by the medical science that backs CR, he will be the first to tell you its benefits have not been proven in humans. There just isn't the body of evidence to say much of anything with conviction. Ravussin is trying to change that. Last April, he and his colleagues published a study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in which 48 non-obese men and women were studied to assess the impact of adding to a CR diet for six months. Part of the study required the members to perform all the meals for the subjects over the first three months of the experiment, ensuring they are 25 per cent less than their baseline energy requirements. The findings suggest CR has a positive impact on two biomarkers for longevity—body temperature and insulin levels. Ravussin notes it took a Herculean effort by the volunteers to maintain the calorie cut was coupled with adequate nutrient intake. "If *Gerard* picks up the megaphone and says, 'Yeah, I want to go on 25 per cent less calories,' they're going to be at a loss," Ravussin warns.

Also, we haven't a clue about any of the potential social impacts of flirting with our waistline. "It's not to say that men, mice and even monkeys need to live longer," Ravussin says, "but you don't know at what price. We know that the monkeys that are caloric restricted are, for example, very aggressive." Nothing, he adds, is known about the cognitive impact CR may have.

Michael Rhee weighs 115 lbs and is six feet tall. Billowy Poyette, an advisory board member for the Institute of Aging of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, sells a chocolate treat called *Steel's* unadorned life, and how he weighs all his food. She shakes it ridiculous. "Do you think this is feasible for people older than 70?" Poyette asks. "No, it's not. I think he's experimenting."

HAS MICHAEL RHEE gone overboard with CR? "I think he'll regret it when he's old."



As it has experiments with potentially dangerous consequences. For instance, studies have shown that weight loss in the elderly is linked to early testis atrophy and mortality. "I think it's a little crazy," Poyette says of the CR diet. "Even if it works, it is sufficient to think that people, in order to live an extra 10 years, will live with malnutrition for 10 or 20 years of their lives." What's important, she says, is that we improve the quality of the years we have, rather than focus on simply living longer. "Living to 120, and spending the last 30 years in a wheelchair unable to feed yourself, what's the attraction in that?"

Calorie Restriction has been shown to cause significant, and undesirable, hormonal and metabolic changes, says Pierrette Gaudreau, a University of Montreal professor studying the neuroendocrinology of aging. Gaudreau says people would be better off just eating back a bit on how much they eat, thereby avoiding the risks associated with a frenetic dietary regime. She notes many of the studies into CR have been conducted on animals started on the diet virtually from birth. Aside from the fact that rats aren't humans, we're not about to restrict the calories human child diets consume. "You'll delay growth at that point," Gaudreau cautions. "So, you're not prolonging life, you're retarding growth," she says but spouts overboard. "I think he'll regret it when he gets old because people like him have no measure of muscle mass." Gaudreau says, "If he, as an advanced age, he's going to have to start eating again."

A better approach is to make small but sustainable changes to your eating habits if excess weight is a problem, says Diane Trengstad, a professor at Simon Fraser University's school of kinesiology. Trengstad speaks from personal experience as much as she does from training. Over five years, Trengstad has lost 70 lbs, and kept them off—a remarkable feat given many dieters often regain their lost weight and then some. Trengstad first started walking more, then running. She moved Calorie Restriction, but it required a much effort. She thinks our "obese" environment, where food is readily available and abundant, bears no resemblance to the artificial world of CR aimed at laboratory mice. "It would be a lot harder to make that expectation work if the animal was stilling the decision about what to eat," Trengstad says. The Calorie Restriction Society, based in Newport, N.C., claims to have almost 1,000 practitioners, including about two dozen Canadian. Bob Gossage, the group's spokesman, says that everyone who follows the diet "basically understands that it's not about human beings." It's conscious moderation. "It's up to the individual as to what their

MONKEYS ON CR HAVE LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE AND HEALTHIER LEVELS OF INSULIN, GLUCOSE AND FAT. ITS BENEFITS IN HUMANS HAVE YET TO BE PROVEN.



HEBERT started with 200 moths. He's aiming for 500,000 species in his database by 2014.

He's bar-coding the entire planet

Guelph prof hopes to extract DNA from every species in existence

BY JOHN TREMPER — In his second-floor office at the University of Guelph, Paul Hebert studies a FedEx package between his black laptop. He pulls it open on the cushioned rug, ripping it into five pieces, before revealing a small box — hundreds of tiny round tubes, each containing a single insect leg. "These are worth \$30 each," says Hebert, staring wide-eyed at one of the moth samples from Costa Rica. "That means there's about 30,000 worth of little legs in this box."

Similar packages arrive every day as specimens from around the world try to help Hebert, an evolutionary biologist, in his bold quest to "bar-code" every species on earth. Hebert found that a small snippet of DNA (just base pairs) from the mitochondrial gene CO1 — which exists in all living things larger than viruses and bacteria — is enough to identify

itself, he had trouble getting traction within Canada's scientific community. "My efforts were rejected as intensely over-ambitious," says Hebert, 38. Only after earning international funding did Canadian grant dollars start pouring in. So far, he's collected more than \$30 million.

In late September, he moved from a small lab into the school's new Biodiversity Institute of Ontario, a 16,000-sq.-foot "bar-coding factory." Inside the red and yellow brick building is equipment worth \$5 million — including DNA-extracting robots — and 30 full-time employees. Hebert hopes to increase his staff by about 50 per cent as he attempts to have 500,000 species in his database by 2014 (he currently has 25,000). That's impressive: three centuries of scientific research have revealed only 1.7 million species.

He boasts that all of the world's birds, mammals and fish will be registered in five years. So will nearly every species in Canada. During the process, the team has discovered hundreds of never-before-known species. So

far, endangered ones. Hebert's team search for new samples at museums. In a joint effort with the ROM, he has an employee collecting samples from its insecta material collection. "Within 20 years," he says, "we'll know how many species are on this planet."

That project, however, is about seven times just creating a master list. And as scientists have used Hebert's bar codes to peeked off plants so he can identify the exact species and they can study flying patterns. Recently, customs inspectors in California contacted him when they found what they suspected were poisonous puffer fish (a Japanese delicacy with high-aspirin neurotoxins) that was labelled cod. "When it's a puffer, it's pretty hard to know if it's a puffer fish or not," says Hebert. "When we bar-coded the tissue, sure enough, they were puffer fish."

Last year, a Toronto manufacturer of TV dinners called Hebert after finding a mouse head in its pots. The company wanted to know if the mouse head had been topped off at the factory in Toronto or at the processing plant in Asia. Hebert doesn't usually do "one-offs" but was intrigued. "Turn out, there are genetic variations between house mice around the world," he says. "We were able to tell, unambiguously, that it came from Southeast Asia." Bar-coding will also make it easier, he says, to identify and intercept invasive species before they do too much damage to a region. And although it's still years from being affordable for the general public, a brand he's developed is currently on the works that will scan DNA (like, for example, from a feather in the forest) and match it to a species in the bar code library before linking with a digital encyclopedia of life — a separate Internet tool arrives at an early stage that will have 100,000 individual species' lists.

Hebert, who says he has no time to waste, hurried around his new building with nervous excitement. Half joking, he talks about staying open for business 365 days a year. "Why do you need Christmas?" he asks over coffee. They laugh nervously, fully aware that their boss and his wife, Judy, spent the holidays last year hunkered up in a tiny habitat cabin near Ellersburgh, Australia, screening for insects. On Christmas morning they collected 300 moths — including several very rare queen-poppers. "It was the perfect Christmas gift," he says. "That's not strange, is it?" M



HOW YOU CAN PUT YOUR HEAD TO SLEEP

Hate to sleep? A Dutch electrical goods manufacturer is working on a product that uses near-infrared light to cause hair follicles to go dormant for weeks at a time. A device using a halogen lamp emits 15-millisecond pulses of light in the 600- to 950-nanometre wave-lengths. By moving the device slowly over the skin, a user can force hair follicles into a "hibernation phase," in which they temporarily stop producing hair.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JONAS HARTZ

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RARE SPECIES OF TEENAGER

A Norwegian researcher came to Canada to study teens who, despite the pressure, don't drink



THE TREND IS CLEAR: Young people drink much, much more than they did 10 years ago

BY MICHAEL FRISVOLD • 18-year-old Westgaard was 15 years old when she first tasted alcohol. "It was a family dinner party," she says, "and I was given my own glass of red wine, which I loved." She drank it every day, just what you do in Norway, where 94 per cent of people sample a tip of booze by their 15th birthday. "I—as well as every body else—drink because everybody else does," Westgaard says. "But like most other scholars, I'd really like this story to be about my research, and not about me."

Fair enough. But considering her expertise—understanding—it's unreasonable to ask who else she has any practical experience in at her chosen field of study. "I did drink," she says of her teenage days. "But not much."

These days, when she does crave the odd drink, she heads to a watering hole in St. John's, Nfld., her home for the past four months—and a fitting place for a person who studies teenage alcohol abuse. (According to a recent survey, 36 per cent of New Brunswick students between grades 7 and 12 admitted to being drunk at least once in the 10 days prior to filling out the questionnaire.) To be fair, the province is hardly alone when it comes to kids and alcohol. Take Scotland, for instance, where 43 per cent

of 15-year-olds drink at least once a week. Or Germany, where 44 per cent of boys are intoxicated twice a month. In Ontario, the average person takes their first drink at age 13, and in Alberta, more than half of all Grade 9 students have experienced with alcohol. The stats might differ slightly from region to region, but the trend is undeniably the same: "Young people drink much, much more than they did only 10 years ago," Westgaard says.

The reasons are well-documented. Easy access. Dysfunctional families. Peer pressure. Two years ago, for example, Statistics Canada surveyed 4,000 youths between 12 and 15, discovering that those most likely to drink had either bad grades, lots of gaming friends or rugging parents—or a combination of all three. Westgaard's smacking her own study, but unlike many researchers, she is

not particularly interested in why the majority of teenagers drink. She wants to know why the small minority doesn't. "There are stereotypes surrounding the abstinent kids," she says. "They are seen as religious or 'jocky-growly.' Being a nerd that is also used."

Granted, some are better. Or as Westgaard describes them, "the loner who sits in his basement and plays computer games." But that's not the only type, as she can attest. A Ph.D. candidate at the University of Bergen, Westgaard has interviewed dozens of "abstinent" teenagers, hoping to determine—ditch his side—what sets them apart from the crowd. Her thesis wasn't finished for another year, but one conclusion is starting to emerge: For every sober teenager, there are many more confident, well-adjusted teenagers who simply decide not to drink—regardless of what their friends are doing. "It's kind of cool if you're abstinent and you stand by it and you're proud of it," she says.

Sure, that's may be for a 14-year-old woman to say. She is years removed from life as a teenager, where conformity is a priority one. But Westgaard isn't trying to preach by the site. Her interview subjects do the talking, and their advice could prove to be a valuable user's guide for teens who don't want to drink, but don't want to be excluded, either. "Alcohol has to do with communication, doing something together, sharing a moment," says Westgaard, who spent last summer as an exchange student at Memorial University. "So you have to have some strategies in mind to be excluded." But the designated driver, for instance. And, most importantly, make sure you have a quick and easy answer of someone at the bar when asked where you're going to be. "Otherwise I'm fine. Move on." "The minutes you start making apologies, then you are lost," she says. "If you open it up for discussion, you could end up saying those all night." Talking to a down person who isn't his right.

Ten Stroudell, the director of the Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia, recommends one particular method: Pour water in your wine glass. Forget your walk at home. "You may as well be sober," he says. "You have this thought that you've got to be drinking when everyone else is, but people don't necessarily notice." Especially after a few sips. ■



POLAND: A TRULY DIVINE HEAD OF STATE
He's king of the Jews, the son of God, and still Master of the universe. He's the king of Poland as well. Forty-six conservative MPs have signed a petition in support of the Investiture. The idea doesn't sit well with Catholic leaders. Archbishop Lech Głódz responded: "Let bishops build apartments, farmers use disinfectant and MPs not interfere in things they do not know anything about."

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Miss Potter finally comes of age

books

If there's one thing pop culture in the new millennium loves, it's dead British authors. Full-on resurrection—film, fresh editions, biographies—

began with the first novel about J.K.R. Rowling's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy in 2001, and carried on with Patrick O'Brian (*Master and Commander*) and C.L. Lewis (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*). Now it's the turn of Beatrix Potter, whose tales of rural-chthonic bunnies and toads's antics have been fixtures in our collective childhood memory for a century. But in a Hollywood twist—one that will be realized later this year in biopics of Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters—the film doesn't offer the less-than-epic adventures of Peter Rabbit or Jeremy Paddie-Duck. Instead, *Miss Potter* is about the author herself, a woman whom her contemporaries found far less interesting than modern do.

Born in 1866, the elder child of upper-class Victorian parents, Helen Beatrix Potter used to seem just another wealthy spinster (by most of her 77 years) who took a disapproving interest in natural history, watercolor and woodblock art. Unlike her books, which were immediate bestsellers starting with *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* in 1902, Potter herself attracted little attention. But every generation looks at the past with fresh eyes, and she is well on her way to becoming an icon. Two icons, in fact. *Miss Potter* picks up on the trend of the reimagining mythology, spinning a fantastical tale of devoted genius finding a way out of an unhappy childhood and a Victorian women's restricted place. With a romantic glow, of course, the standardizer. Renée Zellweger stars as Potter, a pretty child who grew up to be an adult even her adoring biographer can only describe as "bawdiest, though somewhat rounded," Dawn McGowan is the love interest.

A different yarn runs through Beatrix Potter: *A Life in Nature* (Penguin), Linda Lear's massive new bio-graphy. Lear, a professor of environmental history at George Washington University and author of the first serious biography of Rachel Carson, *Winter for the Mice*, concentrates on Potter the ecological saint, whose careful purchase and later donation of

A new biography and a Renée Zellweger film put Peter Rabbit's creator on the road to becoming a feminist icon and an environmental saint
BY BRIAN KETHUNE



POTTER'S CHILDHOOD may have been solitary, but it was filled with animals

15 Lake District farms in northern England established the core of one of Britain's most beloved natural gardens. The two-eyed versions of Potter don't always mesh, but by together they present us an intriguing portrait.

The Potters were a 19th-century industrial Revolution success story. On all sides Beatrix's ancestors were landowners: "Farmers, Nonconformists, Dissenters," these were, the source an American friend, the sort of

rich class industrialists who took the Mayflower to the New World. The ancestors of the same old, Potter continued, "were making it out at home, probably rather copying perceptions." Both her grandfather's were

devout north country Unitarians who made vast fortunes in textile manufacturing. Although her father, Isaac, trained as a barrister, he had no financial need to work, but mother, Helen, brought her own industry and social ambition to the marriage. When Helen became pregnant with Beatrix in 1866, the Potters bought a new-built house in London's Kensington borough, the "unlived bachelors," in Beatrix's words, that would be her home for the next 47 years.

Contrary to entrenched Potter lore, the dormer windows on the third floor nursery were not covered with wire net. The barred window story, Lear claims, may have begun as a metaphor for what has always been seen in Beatrix's oppressive childhood. But Lear, who needs to account for the upbringing of a scientifically literate environmental historian, is eager to point out holes in the story of deprivation. It's true that Beatrix's parents, beset by their lingering Lancashire accents and minority faith, had a restricted social circle. They compensated in part by becoming more conservative than their parents and—ignoring the state of their own wealth—maddish about those who made their living by trade.

Beatrix, released at home, had little opportunity to meet other girls, but governesses taught her art, mathematics, science, French, German and Latin. Her very first reader, a Highland name named Ann Macdonald—Scott names were no de rigueur among the wealthy there as governess Beatrix's names are today—may have been more influential than all the rest. Macdonald, Potter recalled years later, believed with equal fervor in "wishes, fables and the creed of John Calvin." Distant Beatrix managed to ignore the Calvinists, but never lost the sense that the countryside was alive with kindred creatures. By age 3, her sketchbook featured ice-skating rabbits wearing coats, hats and scarves.

And in a way the Potter showed an insight into what would make most modern parents blanch. The nursery was large, at various times, it had rabbits (Blossie and Bouncer and Peter Piper), numerous frogs and lizards, snails, salamanders and a too



some, trace of different species, snakes, seals, a hedgehog or two and even several bats. What they did—occasionally chloroformed by Beattie—was treated with proper Victorian sanitary rigor: their bodies boiled down to skeletons, their bones articulated, drawn, measured, labelled and preserved.

Beattie's first position meant regular childhood visits to some extraordinary landscapes. There was her grandfather's retirement English estate at Camfield House—the home of urban scientist novelist Barbara Cartland—with gardens that were fine and

outly Capability Brown. And when the family began mooning in the Lake District in 1872, Beattie found her spiritual home in the beautiful region first celebrated by the Romantic poets of the earlier 19th century. However military her childhood was, Lear concluded, "it was rich and enviable in terms of exposure to the world of art, literature, language, travel and natural history."

As she grew into adulthood, a proper young lady still under the parental thumb, Beattie did begin to chafe. Given access combined to make her marriage prospects poor, her family's narrow social circles, her own deep spiritual angst, especially, her determination neither to marry nor to have children, she finally started to refer to herself as "the enemy." The sn'ts upon scorned grew her down too, in part, paradoxically enough, because of her superior education. Throughout the story she was obsessed with fungi, turning out hundreds of books (164), highly detailed paintings of various species. Eventually she became well informed enough to challenge conventional wisdom among the (male) establishment. Potter became the first person in Britain to generate certain rare species, and wrote a pioneering paper arguing correctly for the symbiotic nature of lichens. But London scientific circles refused to pay serious attention to a woman amateur, and eventually blocked her one attempt to publish in 1897, 10 years later, the executive secretary of the Linnean Society officially admitted that Potter had been "resented severely" by her peers.

Whether it was the abandoned dove

of the avifauna world or because her endless imagination had moved on, in 1900 Potter abandoned mushroom study for an area more welcoming to female talent. She took an editorial letter about the natural wonders of Peter Piper, that she had seen's friend handchild in 1899—the emboldened boy had once fully preserved in fourteen years—and turned it into *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. His publishers rejected it, including *The World's Best*—a last word. Warner became one of the book's patrons.

POTTER PROVED HERSELF A SHREWD MARKETER, QUICK TO CREATE A PETER RABBIT BOARD GAME AND DOLL, AND TO GET AN ENDORSEMENT FROM THE CREATOR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES



ONE FOUND her spiritual home in England's beautiful Lake District

case of a companion's book, *Little Black Sambo*. Warner began corresponding with Potter, who proved herself a shrewd negotiator and decidedly unmythical marketer, quick to create a Peter Rabbit doll and board game, and to get an endorsement from Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle. (His grand-daughter's illustration to contrast to Warner's, who, after being the U.S. copyright, allowing that country to be flooded with parodies.) Reported by Potter's distribution of 290 copies she had already printed herself, Warner's first run of 10,000 sold out before publication; within a year more

than 50,000 copies were in print. (No date more than 10 million copies of *Peter Rabbit* have been printed.)

As Lear notes, given that Beattie Potter, respectable quaker, was shaped as an all times, it's impossible to establish how she and publisher Norman Warner even communicated their feelings for one another, let alone fell in love in the first place. (On the file, Norman is quoted by his biographer as saying to Beattie: "I am, by heart, and Peter Rabbit is by heart, as much as I am living, private as to be in a room as a teacher, appointed, certain in these both, under the unbecoming of his separately born, I suppose. I'm just, on July 25, 1905, 37 year old. I'm now married, Beattie, three days after her 19th birthday, accepted—and the Peter household exploded in anguish. She could not marry "a man in trade," her youngest mother declared. In love, intensely independent and capable of digging in her heels, Beattie might be, but she still possessed a deep-rooted fear of the party. Unlikely to fully reject her parents' exhortations, Potter agreed to a compromise: for the balance of the summer, until her mother could hope—Beattie came to her rescue, there would be no formal announcement. But the fall showdown never happened. Four days after the proposal, Norman fell ill, a month later, with shocking suddenness, he was dead of leukemia.

Devoted, Beattie nonetheless carried on with the purchase of her first Lake District farm, a home she had planned to share with Norman. Although she continued to live in London with her elderly parents for another eight years, she increasingly spent time in the north. There is a three herself into her writing, and took looker from her immersion in nature. There too the next country collector William Hecla, the man she did marry in 1911. Miss Potter ends with that meeting and the hope of new love. A lift in life, however, is barely halfway through, with 30 years of sleeplessness, preventing conversation and personal philosophy yet to come. Her stories are something about something between and her time and place, but even more about the power of story itself. We only care about the tale of Beattie Potter because of a matchless rabbit in a blue frock coat. M



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I'm happy to bury my country.

EASTWOOD'S *Letters From Iwo Jima* is a landmark in the evolution of the anti-war movie and a dramatic assault on American xenophobia.

Reading between enemy lines

Clint Eastwood makes a Japanese movie, and Hollywood finally surrenders to subtitles

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

Two decades ago, Clint Eastwood was best known as Dirty Harry, and Mel Gibson, playing another violent cop, was about to launch the franchise of the Lethal Weapon franchise. Back then, who could have guessed that 20 years later these two Hollywood action heroes would be directing free-language films? Eastwood's *Letters From Iwo Jima*, like Gibson's *Apocalypse Now*, is undoubtedly epic about a war years, the midblood lost in Gibson's movie has only evolved. And the *Message* dialogue in *Apocalypse* seems no more than a record of that war's history to dignify the pain—the words don't matter much. Eastwood, however, has been questioning violent redemption as his films over the years: his revisionist westerns, *Unforgotten* (1994). His new film made an unprecedented attempt by a Hollywood director to view the horror, and heroism, of the Second World War through the eyes of the "enemy." With its almost all-Japanese cast and its strictly tragic tone, *Letters* plays like a *Kurosawa* film. And as the title suggests, the world-war is a great deal. This is not just a landmark in the evolution of the anti-war movie, it's a landmark in a cinematic assault on American xenophobia.

A long-time place to Eastwood's *Flags of Our Fathers*, which examined the heroism of two Jews from the U.S. side—*Letters* lands with perceptible distance. *Flags* was timely enough in its message, but it's hard to think of it as a war movie. *Letters* is a war movie, and it's a landmark in the film of soldiers living in the Stars and Stripes. But now, just as the Iraq war has become officially hopeless, *Letters* acquires solid resonance—in the drama

of an entrenched military power seeking an honorable exit from current defeat.

Two Jews was Japan's last stand. Commencing with an invasion of the island by a U.S. armada in February 1945, the battle was expected to be over in five days. But it raged for over a month, leaving some 7,000 Americans and 26,000 Japanese dead. The reason was an American defense mounted by its general Army General Tadamichi Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe), who monitored his troops in 5,000 caves and a 29-foot mine of tunnels. Kuribayashi, who was educated in the U.S. and Canada, had a deep affinity for America. Yet we see him urging his men to kill to American soldiers as if they were the enemy. (On the other hand, he's a modern soldier, appalled when his officers commit him to by bringing his grenades against their heads.)

Based on soldiers' letters unearthed from two Jews decades after the battle, the film unfolds through multiple viewpoints as Japanese morale collapses. Supplanting the kamikaze stereotype of Hollywood combat movies, conflicting codes of honor are played out in a brutal series of characters—from Baron Nishi (Toshiyuki Nishi), an Olympic equestrian who shows up on the island with his horse, to Lieutenant Ito (Shinji Nakamura), an old school warrior who insists suicide is the only option. Then there's Private

Saigo (Kazunari Ninomiya), a baker who just wants to get home to see his baby daughter. But Western movie, he's the emotional touchstone in this "foreign" film—a terrified American trapped in a war that makes no sense.

Much of the movie takes place in the dark. In a housepainted: Hades of tunnels and caves. This creates an eerie, claustrophobic sense of claustrophobia, reminiscent of the German submarine movie *Das Boot*. The island's volcanic landscape has a hazy, eerie light, so we start to begin to feel like another planet. And so much of the online has been lost from the film that it's virtually all black and white. When the screen lights with a garb of blood, or a scene of a man over a pale throat over of sea, it's a shock to the senses.

The script—co-written by Canadian Paul Haggis and Japanese-American line producer Ken Watanabe, a skilled, capricious style. But the movie is not just in Japanese, it's in Japanese. And it's a bit in Japan, where the history of Iwo Jima has been largely ignored. *Letters* is a movie with the weight of a war memorial. But on some level, it's also a memorial to cinema. First Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan*, and then the human face behind the Nazi horror in *The Good German*, now Eastwood reverses the tradition of the Hollywood combat picture by surrendering to Japanese cinema. But it's only appropriate: Clint's early spaghetti westerns were inspired by Kurosawa's *Seven Samurai*. In making a foreign film, the man with no recent has simply gone back to his roots. **M**



WE'RE STALKING... EWAN MCGREGOR

The star of the upcoming *Wendy* Allen film Cassanova's *Green* is the star who is currently playing the role who critique his work in the *Star Wars* series. They approach him in the street and compare him unfavorably with Alec Guinness, who also had the Obi Wan Kenobi role. "Why do they feel the need to tell me, 'That film was a 1-1' I was William from and daughter when this guy walks over to say, 'You're not as good as Guinness. I felt really good off'?"

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HOMER CALLED olive oil "liquid gold," and for the Palestinians it is. Proceeds help sponsor better food and youth educational programs.

Extra virgin and very political

Palestinian olive oil is 'very, very good.' But that's not the reason many are buying it.

BY PAMELA CUYVER • In a good bottle of olive oil, Philippe Molli can detect anything from the taste of chocolate to the fragrance of a tomato. The olive oil specialist and Le Dervier food critic finds a wealth of information about age and quality in variations of light and heat of green. "When you do a blind test of olive oil," he says, "it can truly be like tasting wine." Over the past decade, since Molli started his fall-on-the-olive-oil-stand in Montreal, he has become a local legend. His olive oil has become popular for its health properties. High in monounsaturated fats, it can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease. Molli also insists that about 150 different labels of olive oil are available in Montreal, but actually, he has noticed one brand that stands out—for its extraordinary political price. With Palestine's olive oil flowing into foreign markets from Canada to Australia, the oil is "worth your weight" he has taken on new meaning.

Marketing consultant Robert Maslow, born in Jerusalem and raised in Canada, founded the non-profit label Zaitoun (Arabic for olive) in Richmond Hill, Ont., in 2004 "to help farmers in Palestine." Zaitoun buys oil through government-run co-operatives of the Palestine Free Trade Association, with proceeds going to educational programs for youth and tree-planting. Maslow's enterprise, which deals exclusively in extra virgin, cold-pressed oil, or the top grade, has grown steadily in 20 years in 10,000 bottles (575 ml) sold across Canada and in the U.S. annually through a grassroots network of depots and Internet sales.

A second label in Canada is Zaitouna, with oil sourced through Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees, an NGO based in the West Bank. Some farmers helped develop

the olive oil project in Montreal in 2006 "to let the situation of agriculture in Palestine be known." Each bottle sold, through retail as in Quebec and British Columbia, opens farmers and the relief organization Med Aid for Palestine.

Wild olive trees were first cultivated in the region 5,000 years ago. Today, olive accounts for around five per cent of the Palestinian GDP. Most of the groves are family plots and much of the work is done by hand using traditional methods and tools. They're symbolic of fertility and persistence. That year's harvest is a bumper crop of 50,000 tonnes.

Despite the image of the olive branch as an expression of peace, the harvest area is growing dangerous—groves have been attacked and even set on fire in areas near Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. Since the second intifada in 2000, and the collapse of peace talks, borders have been closed. In addition, local markets such as Israel. The situation early in 2006 of a national government in the Palestinian Authority through elections and more border closures, further squeezing the territories' ability to export olive oil.

Paula Vapnarsky and Bruno Perrot of Run Day Farms collect organic fresh olives in Gaza and make a small amount of olive. Vapnarsky says the choice to use Zaitoun oil is simple. "It's

very, very good. It has a true olive taste and you need that for good pizza. So on the one hand it's all about flavor, but we also like the idea of where it comes from. It's an area that obviously needs economic development and support."

Maslow feels he is part of an international movement supporting Palestinian solidarity through olive oil. One of the pioneers in this niche industry is the similarly named Zaytoon in England. Co-founder Heather Gardner began bringing home a few hundred bottles as gifts in 2003 and first year in supporting for sale to stores purchased from 30 co-operatives. Gardner is hoping by year's end that Palestinian olive oil will gain confidence from the British-based Friends' Foundation as the first olive oil for the Fairtrade mark in the U.K., which certifies consistently ethical products for many foods including coffee, rice, sugar, apples and bananas. "Consumers are asking for fair trade olive oil," says Gardner. "But it has taken a long time. There is no experience with fair trade in the [Middle East] region."

Molli estimates Extra Virgin Zaitoun is a true fruiting frequency with notes of green apple and a taste reminiscent of some apricot. "It's not the best oil in the world because it is made with olives that are very ripe," he says. He would like a more full-bodied flavor, he adds—more "boldness," he considers that it is "a good and honest oil." He gives it 2.5 out of four stars. ■



TODAY'S SPECIAL... COARS FOR WINE

A clear complement to a glass of cognac, both are the big tough boys of after-dinner drinks. Now Villeneuve, a U.S.-South African winemaking company, is attempting to marry cognac with red wine. It is marketing a mix "Cognac Long River" that won't, as the promotional material says, "unleash in the next subtle and elegant flavor profile of the world's top wines." In other words a cognac that won't put a gleam in a red wine's eyes.



KATE MOSS (third from left) carries the purse dubbed the "mash bag." My bag induced shoulder strain is the latest status injury.

'A garage with shoulder straps'

Style-conscious women are hauling purses larger than allowable carry-on luggage

BY ANNE KINGSLEY • Of the season's most popular "17" bags, none was more coveted than Chanel's 21 x 34 x 23 x 5 cm black patent Coco Gabs carryall, dubbed the "mash bag" on purse blogs. The 17, 1911 Harcourt of handbags was swapped up by waitlisted customers long before it arrived in stores, leaving the house-keepers to hunt down mother homonym "17" bag—Kendall's 8, Chloe's Edith, Marc Jacobs' line, Prada's Gabbler in a knock-off.

Style-conscious women are now aware that, hauling purses larger than allow carry-on luggage. Even Carly, the cartoon Entrepreneur, recently purchased a "garage with shoulder straps," in her words. Small surprise: anyone who's spent time staring at the latest status injury, big bag-induced shoulder strains and back pain. So concerned is the American Chamber of Commerce it issued the guideline that a hand bag's weight not exceed 50 per cent of its owner's, an effect that must have the often man-garage-baggers concerned in a panic.

Modesty aside, the oversized purse is the natural evolution of the accessory's domination over the fashion landscape. This fall, Dior's Redfame introduced a 4,000 sq.-foot expansion of its 10,000 sq. ft, 70 per cent of it at a store to high-end handbags with 16 m of window display. In April, the company's "Seasons" series will undergo a similar transformation. "The concept is on fire," says Pat D'Amico, a Dior Redfame spokeswoman in charge of accessories. The company's handbag sales are up 30 per cent annually, she reports, with growth of over 40 per cent in some brands.

Big bag mania, a trend that continues in spring collections, is traceable, ironically, to the purest historical fashion reference—



KATE MOSS (third from left) carries the purse dubbed the "mash bag." My bag induced shoulder strain is the latest status injury.

excess. In the recently published *It's the Bag: What Purses Reveal—and Conceal*, Winifred Gallagher writes that by the 1920s, the once-trunk accessory had become a badge of female mobility. Slowly, a status hierarchy emerged. In February 1915, Coco Chanel introduced the "19" quilted leather shoulder bag. The next year, actress-turned-actress Grace Kelly inadvertently created a design classic when she appeared on the cover of *Life* magazine carrying a bag with a dramatic purse (you remember it as the "Kelly"). The Herringbone "Bridges," designed in 1934 with the actress Jane Kelly, achieved similar status: to the point where one paid US\$64,000 for one last year at an auction in New York. But it wasn't until Mila Prada introduced her much-mimicked black nylon backpack in 1985 that designers flooded to handbags as a favored franchise for mass profitability and branding. By the early 21st century, the purse had become the seasonal fashion indicator: anything conferred exclusivity, certain plot lines of *Sex and the City* were pervasive, and those who couldn't afford the current "17" bag could not fit in the month.

Handbag mania gave rise to an industry depicting, what if all these, for, as we know, there's a complex relationship that that between a woman and her purse.



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT PERSONAL BULBS

AC US\$100,000,000, *Myra's* Aircraft's "personal bulb" is not for every budget. Yet if you like hot-air ballooning but hate its inherent messiness, this space-saving fold-up balloon may be the thing you've dreamed of. It has a tent-like interior for passengers and, its investors say, excels at maneuverability. It's also a large in compacted to replace the full-sized balloons, which cost at least US\$2 million and require bulky hangars.

IT GOES BY FAST like your teeth, says a comedian. It stains your gums in between. My wife calls me the purple monster!

Red red wine, stay close to me

In an age of obsessive teeth-whitening, red wine lovers are increasingly self-conscious

BY JULIA KATZMANN • If New York stop a train is on the move, don't what City in Paris. For sure, orders, no matter what restaurant she's in. She'd like to order red wine to go with it, she says, but she doesn't want to look like a fool. She asks for white instead. "Have you seen people who drink red wine?" Their teeth are disgusting. They're stained even after one glass. I don't care what the waitress thinks or what kind of culinary franchise it is, I'm not prepared to walk around with beige teeth. It's awful."

"It's pretty scary," admits comedian-turned-actress, whose company is the best in the world. "What's even worse," he says, "it doesn't just stain your teeth. It stains your gums in between so it looks like you have no teeth. My wife calls me the purple monster!"

Red wine stains on teeth are a new problem. What was once the domain of obsessive teeth-whitening is the domain of obsessive staining. By the subject and the array of oddball comedians popping up from wine-tasting, wine-tasting and dentists. Last month in Toronto, wine-tasting was a Saturday. Jaron Roberson told a solid old timer he had family in Nevada when they were after wine-tasting. To make matters worse, he said, "I know how bad it is for you to brush straight after eating because of enamel erosion, and still (be) mouth). So I was the model for him like a toothbrush across her front teeth. "I was with some effects really beautifully put down."

Roberson's website has had no commercial success on the subject, including, she says, "absolutely massive" from an "Austin like what not who's about dentists." He admits dentists with staining problems to see extra stain-resistant toothbrushes and low-alcohol.



high-fructose toothpaste. Before sampling red wines, especially young tannic ones, he says, "a case of several glycerin liquid or gel around the gums and lips will cause tannin adhesion without staining teeth. But people are already acquiring the stain-egg when dissolved in some water and rubbed along the gums and teeth will passivate out the tannins" (Dennis on red wine cause the staining.)

A blogger on the same site shares news of a "wink-tooth" product called "Wink Mouth," available on eBay and in the U.S., which may be worth the wait. The day-to-day toothpaste. Someone else writes of prescription toothpaste specifically developed for wine-tasters. Aghast at a \$100 bottle, Doug Mart in Toronto has not yet heard of prescription toothpaste but points to a new toothpaste that has just arrived. The bottle shows a glass of red wine at the number one "everyday food" that can wear away enamel, making teeth "visibly less white."

But some toothpaste is to wine-tasters what garlic is to vampires, some dentists and other experts are extremely careful about when they'll use a stain pen. Most won't use toothpaste before or after a tasting. If it's a morning tasting, for instance, Steven Wasser wakes up and "brushes" with white wine, "a Chablis or Sauvignon Blanc," he

says. A wine lover blogging on Vineography.com suggests that not brushing, period, may be the answer to removing temporary red wine stains—"overnight plaque buildup," he's read, "could help protect teeth." Vineography.com editor and founder Alder Yarnow is self-conscious enough himself that he carries a toothbrush and always carries a cheddar cheese stick. "It's not the best of the best of scraping away that dark stain so that you don't look so horrible."

Dr. Sarah Alford, a dentist in Napa, Calif., has noticed that some of their wine-drinking patients are more susceptible to staining than others. "It has to do with your body chemistry, the chemistry of the wine," she says. "The surface texture of the teeth might play a role, too. I have one wine-taster, my God, his staining is unbelievable. He happens to be French so he's got pretty unsightly crooked teeth anyway, and he just laughs and says, 'I'm French. I'm not Californian.'" For patients who care about what teeth, Alford suggests brushing with a toothbrush, using a whitening gel "and putting a tiny drop on your toothbrush and brushing with that."

"There are all kinds of things in wine that can make your teeth go funny," says Kelly Moss, a vintner at Blasted Church winery in Okanagan Falls, B.C. "Just think of it as a compromise—the staining. It's not the building wine with great colour and no staining. A good old-fashioned wine with water is what my dentist recommended." ■



MOST IMPROVED: ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
The governor of California was recuperating last week from a Christmas skiing accident in San Valley, Idaho. He had been completing a "black diamond" run when he caught one of his poles in a ski. Thanks to surgery, during which nerves and a cable were inserted to mend his thigh, the former film star was expected to return to work shortly. To commemorate the accident, the first ski route is being renamed "Arnold's Run."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NANCIE BARTSCH/REUTERS

Erin Davis & Mike Cooper in the morning.

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Goring your boss? You may be an ambrose.



BOOTS FISHBOW

In honor of a tradition that dates all the way back to the beginning of this season, we'll begin the new year by reflecting on some of the words that, based on events of 2006, ought to be added to the dictionary.



ambrose *v.* to be passed over for promotion in favor of a less qualified candidate with better hair



atharadajudo *v.* to respond to criticism, specifically, the annihilation of one's toughest. A deep disapproval Walter Armstrong directed the film critic after their message about Janet's hair began. 2. an arbitrary affliction for wearing the same tin windbreaker all winter.



ambrose *n.* one who is occupationally unimpaired, drollish. Having blown the agency's biggest account, the ad creative was suddenly considered to be ambrose.



blunt *v.* to utter the words "you're beautiful" over and over again for five minutes in a private meeting, then to drop the conversation to a more serious matter.



betray *v.* to emerge, slowly and openly, from a luxury suite made less than decent while "forgiveness" was your underpants. 2. to counterintuitively demonstrate that, contrary to popular belief and the laws of logic, you actually are as dank as Sly's commanda, slutty, Johnnie.



chewy *v.* to answer the prayers of one's right-handers, usually through the use of a toothpick



conceit *n.* 1. to suddenly invent one's lifelong aspiration to be taken as seriously 2. to deeply regret a life-altering choice. Halfway through filming, Sharon Stone's conceit for her decision to star in *Basic Instinct 2* 3. the act of realizing that maybe Don Rutherford isn't so bad after all.



crane *n.* 1. one who survives through studying the illusion of being taller than his spouse in wedding photographs. 2. a famous individual, we used to like who've been collectively decided to dislike, typically for good reason.



clan *adj.* 1. like a clan, rarely. That one poster promoter dated with your double 2. the respect of daily wedges in elementary school.



redcliffe *n.* 1. an abrupt reversal of fortune. I was up \$2.00 at blackjack but then the dealer dealt me the ace and a redcliffe. 2. a vaguely comic mutated some vagabond to the care 3. the actual sound of one's 15 minutes of fame clapping.



fahey *v.* to send a text message, usually. The judge got up and faheyed his last young girl last night.



garth *v.* to achieve, and then comically vanish from, prominence in a very short period of time. Most winners of Canadian Idol sang like they were in jail in the same industry.



gibson *v.* to be concerned about an industry for only weeks, then suddenly, but not actually because you might see day agree to make *Leslie's Woman* V which would totally kill it on the other.



gore *v.* to rub someone's nose in their being boring by, counterintuitively, actually being even boring.



harper *the city* existing control over every aspect of the lives of every person in your sphere of influence. *Syn* politics, transpire.



lithium *n.* 1. an illness between the ears 2. the same name in every tiny photograph.

ignatius *v.* 1. to embark on a devoted quest. His first love, ended only with a latter knife.



be grateful to use the people in doubt 2. to smile in a manner that suggests the very act of smiling is causing you tremendous discomfort.



lamborghini *n.* one who categorically diagnoses Parkinson's without medical training or expertise.



kluge *v.* to radically overturn one's welcome. I told the guy he could crash for a couple nights, and three weeks later he's still blessing on my wife.



knower *v.* to re-emerge into the public eye and recognize one's fame, but not in good ways. *Syn* per se, *herp*.



knocky *n.* 1. one who is, embarrassingly, over a pair of the opposite sex. 2. a man who dithers out an insult but then backs down to admit he's lost. Gary called his ex-girlfriend a knocker but then he was ordering her to knock.



madness *v.* to sleep uncontrollably and with the maximum possible negative publicity.



medley 1. to deny one's best friend once after receiving a lucrative offer to serve as secretary to John Haynes in the attorney class's children. 2. to dance, sometimes on the ceiling.



meekness *v.* to fire someone away too late for it to do any good. Our CFO had already fired in Tulsa without even firing when the chief executive news folded him.



meekness *v.* to win, improbably. Still better on how Maria Bono unseated that Oscar.



volpe *v.* roughly translated from Italian, meaning "to do exactly as poorly as everyone expects you to do all along." The 140-pound basketball player refused to play in last place in the Miss America competition.



meekness *v.* to adopt an expression of shock and surprise when people call you on having said one thing and then, later, saying the exact opposite. The former minister meeknessed his own loss of reputation because he'd decided to tax income instead. *Syn* *meekness*.

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CLASSICS

CHEERY BRONTËS

Brontë fans are about to have a great year. First up is the new, critically acclaimed BBC adaptation of *Jane Eyre* (PBS, Jan. 28, 2006). Nexttime Ruth Wilson steps into the role of the seemingly dull Jane, a governess with a tight hair bun and a wardrobe full of grey frocks. Toby Stephens plays Rochester, her mysterious employer who unleashes the fiery spirit Jane's been suppressing for years. Enjoyable for first-timers and purists, this adaptation of the 1847 classic is perfectly gothic and moody, and doesn't reinvent too much in the scholarly interpretations of the 20th century. "I think a lot of people judge Rochester by a feminist alt-look," says screenwriter Sandy Welch. "And I don't think Charlotte Brontë intended that for her. She had this femininely made him more sympathetic than he actually appears." Others would add the wild Jane even more problematic. "Rochester, I learned him."

Director Angela Wootton will also be taking new approach to the Brontës when she releases *Emily*, a feature film biopic of the family, later this year. It'll show Anne, Charlotte, Emily, Anne and brother Branwell as a whole unit, decidedly less gloomy, light. Even though their home was tormented by a poverty and people were dying every day—from the town's polluted water supply—Wootton believes the Brontës' story is "about life and spirit—people were being honest in their joy, but that's where they played. It was so difficult. I don't think they found it—their way of creating came out of this. Plus, they lived beyond the average lifespan for women." Michelle Williams (Elizabeth Bennet), as Charlotte, will lead the cast in tapping into the happy go-lucky side of the Brontës. And for someone who's still considered that girl (hey, Dawson's Creek), the English moors are a great place to be. *Sandra Dzundza*

MUSIC

LEGEND HAS IT

John Legend landed three Grammys in 2004 with *Crossroads*. Now the Grammy-winning artist is back with *Once Again*. Legend's sophomore effort has garnered two Grammy nominations and RIAA gold, via



Legend's new album, *Once Again*, is available on iTunes and Amazon.

THE LATEST Jane Eyre is now on DVD! Ruth Wilson

ACADEMY AWARDS

COUNTDOWN TO OSCAR

The official poster for February's Academy Awards is now out with dozens of famous movie stars. But it's not just the stars that are out—it's the stars of the stars. The poster features a collage of all of your movie buff friends together to test their knowledge (coming soon with a book of the same). The perfect accompaniment to a Golden Globes viewing party (Jan. 15). *Patricia Zobel*

TV

KING TUT'S BLING

An intriguing season 6 quest was launched when an Italian investigator traced a yellow green colored gem on the Egyptian pharaoh's necklace. It turned out to be a 100-million-year-old cat's claw taken from Egypt's Great Sand Sea. How did these pieces of Africa come to be scattered over a huge area of desert? If the glass was cracked by a meteorite's impact, then where was the crater? In *Frontiers of Science* (Discovery, Jan. 14), scientists agree to a thrilling discovery as they struggle to solve the puzzle. *Patricia Zobel*

TRAVEL

ANY SHOPPE HAPPY

Everyone who hates the where-should-we-go-for-the-dinner-dance when visiting a new city can put 100 percent trust in the catalog series of travel guides. Written of their sleekly designed books have topped out in the tourist market in a number of major cities (New Orleans, Boston, Seattle, Philadelphia, Paris and more). The books are split into two halves, the first part contains no-need-to-worry-up-to-date photography. The second half of each guide offers the same service for shopping—showcasing quirky boutique-type stores unique to the city. You'll never end up at Denny's again. *Sandra Dzundza*

EXHIBIT

A LOUVRE LOAN



The recently rendered, two-toned charged paintings of Gaudin (1874-1934), star pupil of Jacques-Louis David and royal portraitist of Napoleon, broke artistic boundaries bridging the city nobility of Meiji-era Japan with the same of Renaissance. A retrospective, including four over loans from the Louvre, is at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts until Jan. 22. *Michelle Dzundza*

FILM

A FIERY CLIVE OWEN

An archeologist on a mission, Clive Owen's character is a classic Hollywood hero in a classic Hollywood film to call "the triumph of the human spirit." But so is for the cool fire intensity of Clive Owen, the star of *Crash*, the star of *Crash*, the star of *Crash*. *Sandra Dzundza*



and the visionary eye of director Alfonso Cuarón, who captures the scandal and the infidelity in a film that is a masterpiece of the past. *Michelle Dzundza*



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